

# Power of One

## All's well that ends well for Lions eye mission

By Pippi Mayfield, Detroit Lakes Newspapers

For the first time, area Lions clubs decided to add a second eye care mission to Mexico earlier this year.

But after bad luck followed by more bad luck, at one point, the group thought they might be in for a vacation rather than a goodwill mission.

After holding eye care missions in Mazatlan five times, the group added a trip to Cabo San Lucas in February.

“We had no idea what was there,” Armand Radke said. Radke and his wife, Mari, are the organizers of the trips. “Even though we were there twice to set up, you never know until you’re hands on.”

Thus began the adventure.

Feb. 3 they stepped off the airplane in Cabo and were stopped in immigration because of the boxes of glasses they had brought with them. Besides the boxes, Radke happened to have one bag of luggage filled with glasses as well. Immigration wouldn’t allow the boxes through though, so of the 1,200 glasses they brought, they ended up with only the 400 in his luggage for their mission.



**Dr. Armand Radke examines a young patient during the Cabo San Lucas mission.**

Because the Lions didn’t have the right documents to get the glasses into the country, they were not allowed to partner with Friends of Children, the organization they were to work with while in Mexico.

When they were ready to leave the airport, they found the transportation company they were to ride to the hotel. As everyone boarded, Radke said he realized one piece of luggage had been left behind and he returned to get it. When he came back to the bus, everyone was exiting the vehicle. The drivers said it was not paid for yet.

After phone calls to the hotel, the issue was cleared up and the Lions were able to re-board the vehicles.

Radke said by that time, they were beginning to think, “Man, it sure feels like we shouldn’t be here.”

Once they met with the Lions of Cabo, they found out that not only was the club much smaller than expected — there were only 22 members coming from the 250,000-population city, compared to 45 members in Detroit Lakes with its 8,000 population — but the president of the club had been hurt in an accident two months earlier and was still in the hospital. With nothing organized, the American Lions thought they might just be on a seven-day vacation at this point.

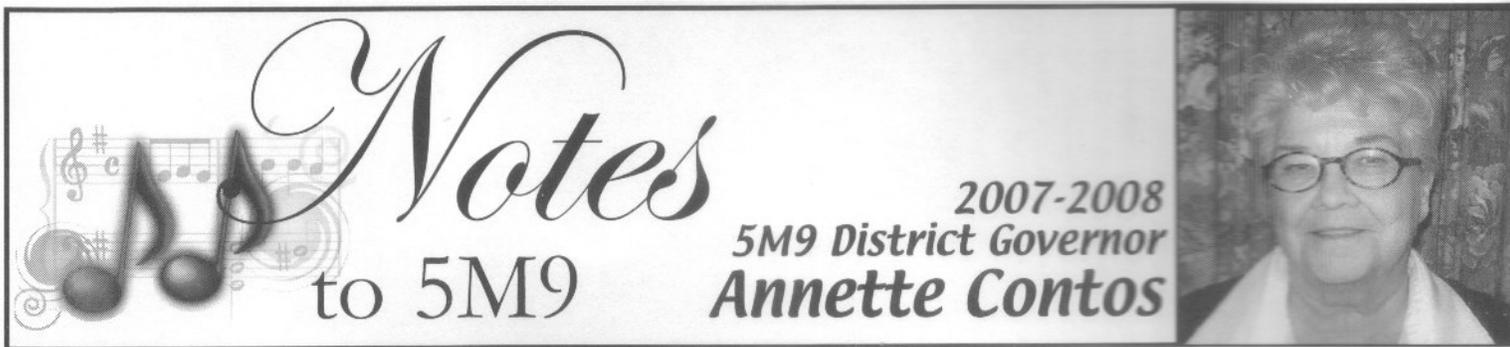
By now it was Ash Wednesday, and the Radkes and a few other members of the group visited a Catholic church to receive ashes. They were late and came in contact with a nun not willing to serve those who were late. She sent them to a sister church elsewhere in town — something that turned out to be the group’s saving grace.

They met the priest at the new church and got to talking about what they had come to Cabo for and their experiences thus far.

“I have a place for you to work,” the priest told them.

The priest explained that he had set up eye care clinics in the past but could never get the

**Continued on the back page**



**Greetings Lions, Lioness, and Leos of 5M9,**

Wow, has time flown! It seems such a short time ago that I was thinking about all the firsts coming up and now I am counting down to the last time for so many things. I have only one more opportunity to attend a zone meeting as district governor, had my last cabinet meeting, my last multiple convention as dg, I only have only 8 club visits left. I have only been snowed out twice. Once for a joint club visit that was planned for December 1 and we know what the weather was that weekend and tonight I using discretion instead of valor and not attending the Underwood Lioness Steak Fry fund raiser for Project New Hope.

I had a wonderful opportunity to surprise PCC Robert Beard at Zone 3 meeting in Outing on April 23. It was so special the zone meeting was hosted by his club and I was able to present him with the International Presidents Medal. This is the highest award that is presented by the Lions organization. All nominations are reviewed by the International President and he decides who will receive them, many are nominated few receive. Such an honor for Lion Bob to received it and such an honor for me to be able to present it.

I have tried to get all the College of Leadership pins out to the recipients, if I missed you please let me know and I will send one to you. I do have some extra chevrons from prior years so if you are missing one and if I have an extra I will send it to you. Now my memory is nudging me but I do not remember the name I was given, but someone attended the Leadership Institute and did not receive a pin—please contact me. Also I believe there was a mix up with someone from the Garrison club about the pin and or chevron from last year. Please contact me.

I have had the opportunity to share time with Lion Wayne Myrvik the past 6 weeks or so when he has been my partner in service or as these guys refer to themselves wheelman. I so appreciate his giving of his time to travel with me and I have enjoyed getting to know my fellow Lion from Elizabeth just a little better. I know he has enjoyed hearing about all that goes on out and about the district. Thank you to everyone who made him feel welcome.

Congratulations to all the clubs in the district that are doing such a

wonderful job of presenting scholarships to the deserving students in their community. One club that I specifically remember hearing gave a scholarship to a technical school. As a tech school graduate I think that is great! I wish I would have kept track of how many scholarships and the dollar amount that have been presented this year, but my guess that it is in the neighborhood of \$100,000. Wow!!

The college of leadership will be a done deal by the time you read this and I hope you all attended and learned what you needed/wanted. If you have suggestions for changes please let me, PDG Dick Labraaten, Dean of the College, or DGE Peter know what you would like to see next year.

Congratulations to PDG Adolph on reaching his District goal for CSFII dig a little deeper and send him an additional few dollars he deserves it for all his efforts and hard work this past 3 years. How many of us have the courage to LCI's powers that be that our district would not be able to raise \$300,000 plus but that we could do \$100,000 now it would be nice to give him just a little more.

We had a fun Chinese auction at the Zone 2 meeting, one of their members—she writes articles for the newspaper, takes pictures, does beautiful handwork, is petite and spoiled by her son and I can't remember her name. At any rate she crocheted a beautiful Lions outfit for a doll, purple dress and hat, gold vest a petticoat—she is beautiful! PDGs Carroll and Adolph Kukowski won the bid and PDG Adolph gave her to me. Thank you PDG Adolph giving me the doll and thank you IPDG Carroll for letting him give it to me and not to you! She looks like she is dressed to attend the 2010 Lions Mid-Winter Convention which will be hosted by Aitkin and the Aitkin Riverboat Lions. We will be Rollin on the River at Craguns in January of 2010.

Please mark your calendars for October 12, 2008 – this is when the Melvin Jones Fellowships will be presented. Send your nominations to me via e-mail [acontos@prtcl.com](mailto:acontos@prtcl.com) or snail mail 1630 N park #2, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

Until next month **SMILE,**  
DG Annette

<p><b>The 5M9 Power of 1</b></p>  <p>This is a publication of, by and for the Lions, Lioness, &amp; Leos of District 5M-9.</p>	<p><b><u>District Governor</u></b> Annette Contos 1630 N. Park #2 Fergus Falls, MN 56537 H (218) 739-3139 <a href="mailto:acontos@prtcl.com">acontos@prtcl.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Cabinet Secretary</u></b> Dale Johansen (Betty) 21008 Cty Hwy 35 Underwood, MN 56586 H (218) 826-6834 <a href="mailto:dalebet@prtcl.com">dalebet@prtcl.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Editor</u></b> Bert Nelson (Pamela) 40606 Co. Hwy. 67 New York Mills, MN 56567 H (218) 385-3956 W (218) 346-5900 C 218-298-0599 Fax (218) 346-5901 <a href="mailto:bertnelson@lakesplus.com">bertnelson@lakesplus.com</a> 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.</p>
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# Annette's travels

## 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  
30 Retirement DG - Hello IPDG

## October

12 PDG Annette's Award Day  
and Mini Forum

# Cultivating our Minds... Let our Service Grow VDG Peter Van Erp

Since most of us live in Minnesota we understand the saying "if you don't like the weather just wait a short while and it will change" Boy we have experienced that in the last two weeks. Snow, wind, rain, wind, sleet, wind, sun and did I say wind. You had better had your cap on lock when you went outside or else you lost it.

But on the other hand the saying "time really flies when you are having fun" certainly has been true for us the last nine months. We have been having fun and the time is really flying by. It seems only yesterday I got the title District Governor Elect and now it's time to start thinking of going to Bangkok, Thailand to be inducted into the Governorship for 5M9. They say it's a loooong flight.

Last Saturday, we attended the MERLO team training in Mahnomen. Our District 5M9 MERLO team does a very good presentation on membership, extension, retention, leadership and orientation. Please ask them to come to your clubs and put on a program. Now is a good time as any to bring in new members and work to retain the members we already have. It never hurts to refresh all of your members on any one of the aspects of Lions. Let's get our MERLO team out to our clubs and keep all of them busy. Now is a good time for the new Presidents, Vice Presidents and program chairs to think of getting other programs lined up for next year also. I hope that each club signed up at the College of Leadership (and earned a few extra points for the Governors contest) to have our program chairs come to your monthly meeting and put on their program for your members. They have a wealth of information to share with all of us. It then gives all of us a better understanding where and what our monies are used for when we donate it to one of the Lions projects.

Now on to some of the fun times that we are looking forward to, presenting a Melvin Jones to a very deserving Lion, enjoying a delicious smelt fry, getting ready for our Bluffton Lions annual auction (it's a lot of work but we have a lot of fun doing it) attending the Multiple Convention at Mahnomen, helping out at the fishing opener at Breezy Point, attending the Bluffton Lions Ladies Luncheon (that the proceeds will go to Project New Hope).

Soon it will be spring (I think) so let's get started at the cultivating and planting of getting new members, and work on our new ideas, even if it means to give "Change a Chance". Remember to continue to have FUN.

Until next month  
DGE Peter Van Erp

Proud to be a  
**LION!**  
Wear your pin



Bluffton Lions Club Auction on April 20th was a successful Auction Fund Raiser Project. The picture on the right, the auctioneer going for the final bid with Bluffton Lions Bert Jeffery and Pam Nelson clerking the sale. In the left picture, some of the crowd is socializing and waiting for the item they would like to purchase.

# Akeley Lions' Spring Projects

Akeley Lions' Spring community service projects include providing lunch and workers at an early April Blood Drive, purchasing supplies for an Arthritis Foundation Self Help Program, and members cleaning the ditches for trash along Hubbard County 25 around the outskirts of Akeley.

It was hard to believe it was spring when the Akeley Lions' sponsored a blood drive after a snow storm dumped 2 feet of snow in the area. Several donors came out anyway and gave blood to help save lives. Blood is separated into components so that several patients may benefit from one blood donation.

On April 17, Akeley Lions' member Sharon Busch began a six week self-help program for people with arthritis and fibromyalgia. Lions' members purchased an easel for the flip chart and a white board. Busch is a trained volunteer for the Arthritis Foundation, an organization that provides the leader materials and handouts for those attending. Arthritis is the number one

cause of disability in the United States, affecting 46 million Americans and their families. This program helps participants to manage their pain. Twelve are attending the class at the Akeley Senior Center. Busch hopes that this will be an ongoing program and will offer it in other nearby communities in Hubbard County.

Last but not least of spring projects is cleaning up the ditches depending on weather conditions. The road cleaning project, a 2.5 mile stretch of County 25 around Akeley, should be completed by mid-May.

Looking into the summer season, Akeley



**Vivian Bergstrom, blood donor, is waiting to be registered to give blood by Lion members Sharon Busch and Deloris Lamb.**

Lions' will be actively helping with a youth baseball program involving kids in Akeley and Nevis. Lion Randall Morrison is taking a lead role in signing up Lion members to volunteer for the food stand and getting the ball diamond ready for games.

# Underwood Lions note 30 years



**Underwood Lions Charter members attending the 30th Anniversary dinner included John Moe, Merrel Moore, LeRoy Peterson and Chester Johanson.**

The Underwood Lions Club reached a milestone in club history as the members celebrated their 30th Anniversary March 27 in the Underwood Community Center.

Special guests included many Battle Lake Lions who showed their support for the Underwood Lions. Battle Lake was the sponsoring club when the Underwood Lions Club was formed.

Battle Lake Lions attending were Chuck Reeve, Dale Werner, Carl A. Carlson, Marlyn Kruschke, Dale Ruele, Dick Tamke, Mike Adkins and Bob Westgard. Another special guest was Mike Parker of the Salvation Army.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and supper was enjoyed by all. All those attending stood and introduced themselves.

Chester Johanson, Charter President, spoke on the history and highlights of the club. The members have taken on army projects through the years including auction sales, wood cutting, pork chop feeds, ice racing and ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. Chester thanked the nine Battle Lake Lions for their attendance and for sponsoring the club.

Mike Parker from the Salvation Army spoke on the history of the bell ringing and thanked the club. He also presented the club with a bell ringing award. The club raised over \$12,000 this past Christmas.

Dave Wass reported on his trip with Pete Eikeland to Mexico to help with the Lions used eye glasses program. They worked with two Lions Clubs and another group called Friends of Mexico.

The Battle Lake Lions presented the Underwood Lions Club with a 30th Anniversary gift.

# Lions' leader dogs are a blessing to owners

Story by Leader Dog Chairman Dick Kimball

As Lions, we understand the importance of programs such as Leader Dogs for the Blind. However, the public, for the most part, does not fully realize what these programs entail and the benefits they provide to participants. In an effort to enhance the public's awareness, especially of young people, the clubs of Akeley, Nevis, Osage, Laporte-Benedict and Park Rapids sponsored school visits by Leader Dog graduate field representative Bunny Tabatt. On April 3rd & 4th, Bunny and Baker, her Leader Dog, visited with students in Nevis, Laporte and Park Rapids about her blindness, the challenges she faces every day, what Baker does for her and about Leader Dogs for the Blind.

For many of the students, grades 3 through 8, this was their first exposure to someone who is blind and to a dog-guide and like most people they were more interested in the dog, at first. The first thing Bunny discussed with each of the 5 groups of students was how to act around a service dog. She cautioned each student to not greet the dog or make eye contact with the dog as this will distract the dog from the job for which it is trained, to act as the eyes of the blind person and to safely guide them through their daily activities, in private or, especially, in public settings. She explained that if Baker is in harness, he is working. But if he is off harness, he is like any other dog and can be petted or hugged if people ask and she gives permission. Bunny explained that the stu-



**Above: Leader Dogs for the Blind field representative Bunny Tabatt with Baker speaking at the Park Rapids school. Right: Bunny and Baker at the Nevis school.**

dents, once they knew, were good about not distracting Baker. She said the adults, however, don't seem to see the sign on Baker's harness that reads "Please Don't Pet Me, I'm Working."

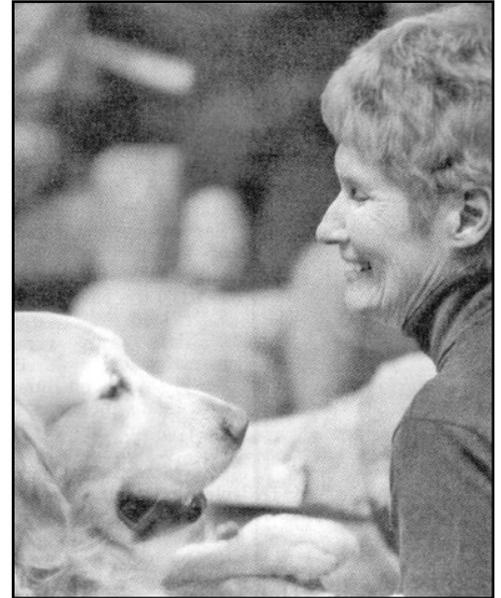
After a short discussion of the things mentioned above, Bunny asked if the students had questions. As with any group of students in this age range, the questions could have been about anything. However, none of the questions asked by these students were what could be interpreted as inappropriate or off-subject. They ranged from 'How did you lose your eyesight?' to 'How do you choose what you are going to wear?' to 'How do you know what you're going to cook?' to 'How does Baker know where to go?' to 'How do you know what to buy at the grocery store and can Baker go into the store?'

The first group at Nevis, grades 3-6, had around 140 students and staff in the room. When Bunny asked for questions over half the students raised their hands to ask a question. The older students, grades 7

& 8, at both Nevis and Laporte had some very thought provoking questions. At Park Rapids Century School, the students in the 5th grade pod were listening intently to every word Bunny spoke. Was this effort a success? The Lions involved, including Bunny, would answer with a resounding yes. Should the effort be repeated at these schools and others in 5M9? Absolutely? Bruce Gravalin, principal at Park Rapids Century Middle School, wants to repeat this program every year with the students in the 5th grade pod. The teachers in that pod agree wholeheartedly.

The second part of this effort to enhance public awareness of the programs of Leader Dogs for the Blind was a fundraiser fish dinner. The dinner, held at the Park Rapids American Legion, was co-sponsored by the clubs of Akeley, Nevis, Osage and Park Rapids. While we didn't serve as many as hoped for, approximately \$1,600.00 was raised for Leader Dog, with each club sharing the contribution equally.

Overall, these were three very successful days for Leader Dog, specifically, and for Lions, generally.



**Leader Dogs for the Blind field representative Bunny Tabatt give presentations at Laporte, Nevis and Park Rapids schools with her leader dog Baker. The above photo of Baker and Tabatt appeared on the cover of Leader Dogs for the Blind Update publication recently.**



# Leader helps food shelf

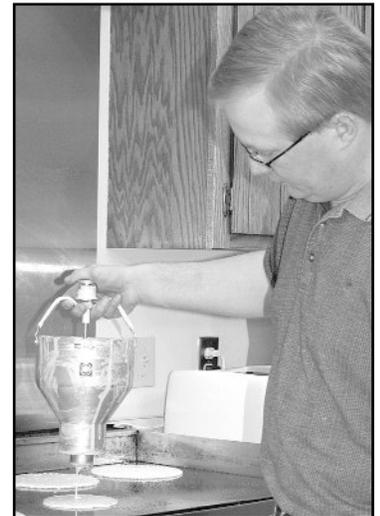


Leader Lions recently made a \$500 donation to the Motley Area Food Shelf. Proceeds were from the pancake breakfast recently held in Leader. Pictured from left are Edith Esler, food shelf volunteer; Iras Chapin, food shelf director; Deb Alexander, Leader Lions member; and Dale Holmberg, food shelf volunteer.

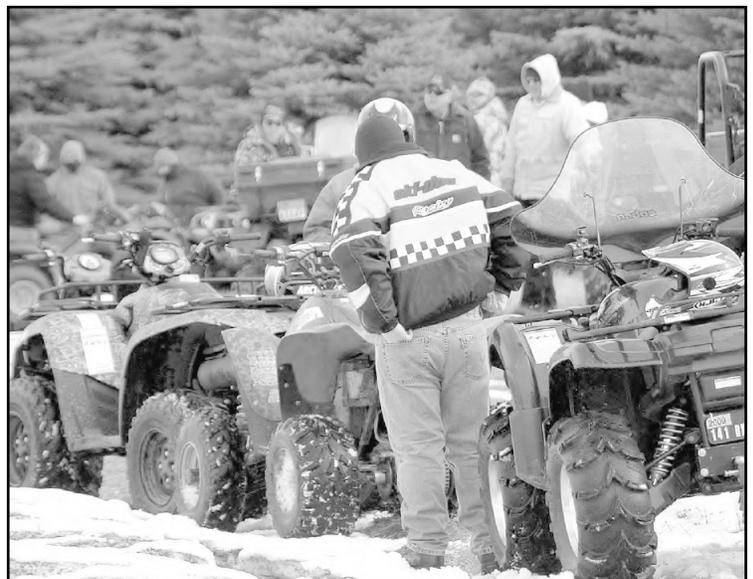


## Henning Lions flip cakes for a good cause

Pictured above and right: The Henning Lions served up pancakes to raise money for the Henning Area food shelf. As program cuts continue statewide the local food shelf feels the pinch. Many local food shelves rely the support of clubs like the Henning Lions Club.



## Riders raise bucks for area youth



Over 70 4-wheeler riders took part in the Parkers Prairie Lions Club Ride for Youth Saturday, March 29. The ride grossed about \$1,900 which will be spent on youth activities in the community. Riders came from as far away as Dassel, Eagle Bend, Henning, Alexandria, Carlos, Battle Lake, West Fargo, Brooklyn Park, Elk River as well as from Parkers Prairie.

# Bus Ride to Saskatoon

Forget pushing your vehicle halfway across Canada to attend the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum.

## Ride The Lion Bus!!!

The bus will leave from 5M1 - probably Rochester- on September 17 and return on September 21. There will be room for up to 50 Lions and guests.

**Cost will be \$150 round trip.**

The route will be determined by riders locations and will be announced later.

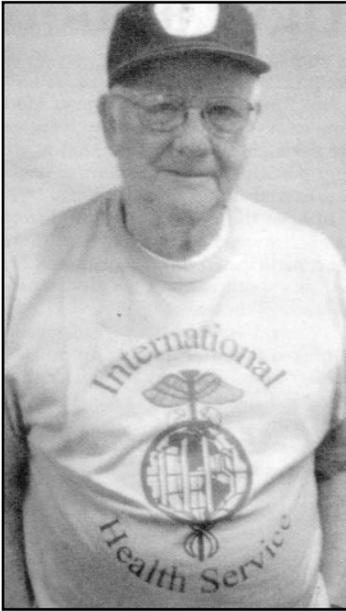
<b>Contact:</b>	507-754-5509
Governor Clair Mrotek	mroteckc@acninc.net
77191 St. Hwy. 16	fax: 507-533-6926
Spring Valley, MN 55975	

\$100 deposit, deadline is July 1, 2008.

Please make checks out to Rochester Bus Service and send to Clair.

# Travels to Honduras

## Riordan has lengthy experience with International Health Service



**PDG Jack Riordan**

By Kelly Virden, Pine River Journal Editor

Jack Riordan, of Fifty Lakes, traveled on International Health Service's first visit to Honduras, 26 years ago.

Since then he's made nearly every annual trip to the country.

The Minnesota-based I.H.S. is volunteer-based and affiliated with a church.

Volunteers usually have never met before they form a team. Volunteers come from the U.S. and other countries to Honduras to provide medical, dental and eye services to Hondurans.

Teams are able to travel in Honduras by boat, bus, truck or by small airplane, depending on the team's location.

Boxes of supplies shipped from the U.S. are colored-coded for ease of sorting: "rojo" (red, in Spanish); "amarillo" (yellow), etc.

Riordan speaks some Spanish; "Enough to get in trouble," he joked.

Approximately 23-24 people went to Honduras the first year, Riordan explained. Lions Clubs International donated a semi-truck full of medical supplies including old-fashion crank hospital beds, operating tables and lights, anesthesia machines and medical supplies.

Riordan, a retired fire captain from St. Louis Park, was valued for his handyman skills and for "doing what's needed" like fixing generators and the like.

Following Hurricane Mitch in 1998, I.H.S. built homes for hurricane relief. Hurricane Mitch killed as estimated 6,500 Hondurans and displaced 1.5 million people, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce National Climatic Data Center.

In the early years of the organization I.H.S. started a dialysis center in Honduras and set up a clinic to provide free services to patients. A total of 8-10 I.H.S. teams make the trip each February for two weeks,

according to I.H.S.

Medical Teams diagnose patients and provide medicine.

The Eye Teams distribute hundreds of pairs of donated glasses a day. Lions Clubs collect donated eyeglasses and give them to organizations like I.H.S.

The Dental Teams primarily extract teeth. They limit the number of teeth they can pull at a time because of concerns of bleeding.

Some I.H.S. teams are located in the mountains, others on the coast or in th inland cities.

I.H.S. flies a small plane out to pick up patients and bring them to the teams for treatment. It is challenging to schedule services for patients and sometimes they have to escort patients to their appointments to ensure that they arrived on time, Riordan said.

Riordan recalls he helped a man get glasses and gave him a ride in a truck - when he previously walked 20 miles across a lagoon.

"He just couldn't thank me enough," Riordan recalls. "It's things like that that bring you back."

Riordan also recalls a 6-year-old Honduran girl who had lost her sight suddenly.

The Eye Team examined her and removed a cataract that she had had since birth. Riordan believes they also reattached her retina.

Riordan has spent considerable time in Puerto Lempira, Honduras, as a team coordinator for I.H.S. He is also an officer of the I.H.S. Board of Directors.

Jack Riordan is also a Past District Governor.



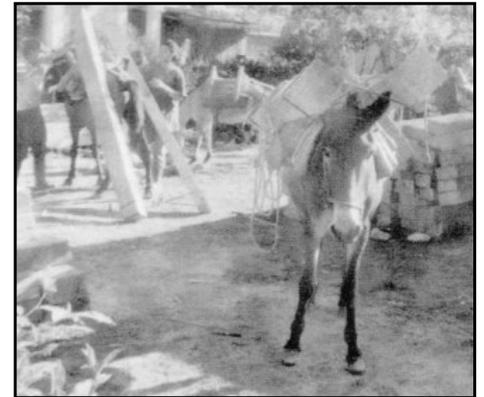
**A view of the town of Esperanza, Honduras.**



**An IHS volunteer boxes up glasses by strength of prescription. Some of the glasses were donated from Minnesota**



**Hondurans wait to be seen at the clinic.**



**Yocon Mountain team.**

# Lions provide low vision machine

Phyllis Tegtmeier of rural Battle Lake has been slowly losing her eyesight due to macular degeneration. A friend who is familiar with the Lions Clubs International emphasis on sight programs encouraged Phyllis to contact the Ottertail Lions Club. Her letter prompted the Ottertail club to join with the Battle Lake Lions Club to provide Phyllis with a low vision reading machine.

The machine uses a camera to enlarge printed materials like books, magazines, bank statements, and bills and then transmits the image to a large television monitor. The machine, acquired for Phyllis from the Low Vision Store in St. Paul, has a used camera and a new monitor.

Lions members, friends and family were on hand for the event as Terry Nelson, a representative from the Low Vision Store, got the machine set up and Phyllis could again see words on paper.

Phyllis was thrilled to get the closed circuit TV system, and immediately showed those gathered how she could write while looking at the monitor. She said she has a bookcase full of books ready for reading. Nelson kidded with Phyllis not to stay up all night reading.

Ottertail Lions President Jerry Smith says, "It is so fulfilling to help a family out that has the need, but not the resources."



Phyllis Tegtmeier with her new vision machine, courtesy of the Ottertail and Battle Lake Lions Clubs.

## Donation to the Cass Lake Fire Department



Cass Lake Lake Country President Pat Town presented a check for \$500 to Tim Ripling of the Cass Lake Firemen Association, following a presentation on recently purchased equipment.

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to be a LION TODAY!



## WELCOME NEW LIONS MEMBERS TO 5M9!

New Member	Club	Sponsor
Louise Shay	Akeley	Deloris Lamb
Robert Blatti, Jr.	Battle Lake	Robert Duerr
Brian Johnson	Breckenridge	Joel Lysne
Linda Nelson	Crosslake Ideal Whitefish	Diana Galloway
Loreen Johnson	Crosslake Ideal Whitefish	Connie Erickson
Barbara Graham	Crosslake Ideal Whitefish	Connie Erickson
Donald Imberi	Cuyuna Range	Dennis Nyberg
Ruth Imberi	Cuyuna Range	Geraldine Nyberg
Judith Eckwall	Deerwood Lakes	Catherine McDougal
Gordon Johnson	Nisswa	Steven Johnson
Cameron Dorion	Nisswa	Michael Rempe
Paul Dooley	Nisswa	David Loch
Eugene Sprague	Pine River	Francis Anderson
Mary Lou Sprague	Pine River	Francis Anderson
Lloyd Jobe	Underwood	John Quaal
Todd Stoen	Underwood	Mary Kubitz
Julie Finch	Walker	Jeanne Nelson
Eric Guler	Walker	Willard Arends
Greg Bloomstrom	Walker	Kelly Nelson
Kimberly Bloomstrom	Walker	Jeanne Nelson

# Aitkin Lions host membership dinner

Right: PDG Jim Dullum from the Nisswa Lions was the guest speaker of the evening who entertained all with his lively talk about being a Lion and what it means to serve.

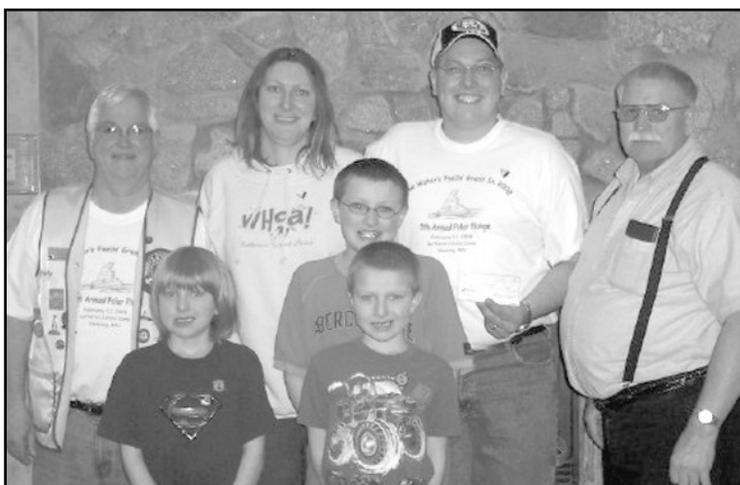


L-R: Aitkin Lion Glen Smeltzer, Riverboat Lion Dorothy Smeltzer, and their guests Riverboat Queen Ihleen Williom and Riverboat Captain Gary Williom.



The Riverboat Ramblers entertained a room full of over 70 Lions and their guests at the 40 Club in Aitkin during a membership dinner.

## Ottertail Lions help twin brothers with diabetes



Back row: Jerry Smith, President of Ottertail Lions, Adriane, Josh, Diabetes Chairman Jim Neuerburg. Front row: Noah, Zach, Jaron

A Meat Raffle Benefit was put on by the Ottertail Lions for the family of Josh and Adriane Anderson. Their seven year old twin sons Noah and Jaron were diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes Type I when they were five. Doctors have now recommended Insulin pumps for the boys at a cost of \$7500 each.

## Lions we will miss

Paul Lundell	Wadena Lions Club
Jerry Wegscheid	Wadena Lions Club
Roger Fancher	Emily Outing 50 Lakes LC

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.

## 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

# Parkers smelt fry draws hundreds of people

By Tom Hintgen of the Fergus Falls Daily Journal, Pictures are by Tom Myers of the Parkers Prairie Independent

Each year the two-day smelt fry is the main fundraiser for the Parkers Prairie Lions Club. This year hundreds of people flocked to the event held Saturday and Sunday at the new Prairie Event Center which opened last fall just west of town.

The club did pretty well this year, with about 950 people fed between 3 and 10 p.m. Saturday and another 375 people served Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. That's a total of 1,325 people who enjoyed firsts and second servings of smelt, French fries, cole slaw, bread



The Parkers Prairie Lions served over 1,300 people Saturday and Sunday at the 45th annual smelt fry. The smelt this year were some of the tastiest ever served said many of the people who attended the fund raiser. Terry Zimmerman cleans the smelt for the third time prior to frying the tasty little morsels.

and beverage.

"We order about 1,200 pounds of smelt each year," said Lions Club member Tom Myers, a 34-year volunteer veteran of the smelt fries held each spring. "This is our 45th annual event, and we appreciate all the people who come year after year."

For the past eight or so years the Parkers

Prairie Lions Club members have purchased smelt from a commercial fisherman who gathers in the smelt on Lake Michigan. Most smelt weight only from one to six ounces.

Once a rite of spring in Minnesota, the smelt run has diminished along the Lake Superior tributaries near Duluth since the heyday of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Smelt numbers have dropped significantly and, consequently, the numbers of smelt fisherman coming to the Duluth area also are down.

About 40 volunteers work annually at the Parkers Prairie two-day smelt fries, held in previous years at the elementary school. The fish come cleaned and washed, but club members clean the small fish three more times before the frying process begins.

The Lions Club has been a service organization in Parkers Prairie since 1963. Their main purpose in the community is to serve others.

Since being chartered, the Lions have supported local, national, and international projects.

Locally, Parkers Prairie Lions donate toward school projects, the community's youth programs and those in need of medical assistance.

Other fundraisers, in addition to the two-day smelt fry, include a Classic Vehicle Show, raffle and food booth, winter snowmobile fundraiser for youth projects and a four-wheeler fundraiser for youth.

The Lions are sponsors of the Boy and Girl Scout troops in Parkers Prairie. When the city built a new City Hall following the 1995 gas explosion, the Lions Club - with help from Lions International - contributed \$75,000 to the building project.

"We work well together, whether it be at the smelt fry or other events," said long-time Parkers Prairie Lions Club member Gerry Freundenberg.

Over the years, the Lions have contributed to the building of Lake Adley Park, helped fund the football field lights and led the push for the Prairie Event Center that opened last year - with a contribution of over \$50,000.

They've also spon-



Gary Olson, left, Mark Jaskowiak and Dave Gappa did some of the prep work on the smelt just before frying. Gappa enjoys a small snack (smelt) while he works.

sored the Athlete of the Year award, built several park shelters, and restored the Case Streamer for the City Park display.

The Lions motto is "We Serve."

People who come to partake of the small but tasty smelt each year help support the Parkers Prairie Lions Club as they raise funds to support worthwhile projects in their community.

## From the Parkers Prairie Independent

The Parkers Prairie Lions keep accurate records of each fry. The highest year was the year the of the fire hall explosion when the people really turned out to help the community. That year, 1,768 people were served. In 1963, when the fry began, about 200 people went through the serving line.



Loadin' up on smelt and all the fixins' Saturday afternoon.

# Lions Club Incorporation

Dear Lions Members:

There has been a great deal of discussion this past month or so about Lions Clubs incorporating. As many of you are aware, there have been some situations that have come up with clubs regarding gambling issues. This has brought up a lot of questions regarding the value of incorporation.

It is recommended by LCI that each club should incorporate. Some of the reasons being the following:

- a) Lions Clubs International's Liability insurance policy is limited in its coverage. Read it carefully for limitations and exclusions. You can download a copy from the LCI website.
- b) Incorporation protects your members from personal liability if your club is involved in a lawsuit.

Following you will find instructions on

- 1) How to find out if your club is incorporated.
- 2) How to renew your corporation status if you were incorporated and it has lapsed.
- 3) How to incorporate if you have never been incorporated.

I hope the following information is helpful to you. Should you have any questions, please give me a call at 507-964-2733 or email me at king70@frontiernet.net

Thanks,  
PID Maynard Rucks

## To find what the status of your club is in regard to Incorporation:

Go to the website: [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us)

- 1) Go to Online Services
- 2) Go to Search
- 3) Go to Registered Office/Corporate File
- 4) Type in the name of your club, also check the box if you feel you may be inactive and your name will appear.

Note the description of the Entity Type ID Definitions. (If your

name does not appear at all your club has probably never been incorporated).

**If you have incorporated previously** but are inactive at this time, you can either reactivate online at [https://online.sos.state.mn.us/abr/corp annual filing.asp](https://online.sos.state.mn.us/abr/corp%20annual%20filing.asp)

or you can print a copy of the renewal form off of the website [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us) and send it in. There is no fee for the renewal of a corporation.

### To print a copy:

- 1) Go to Business and Non Profit Forms
- 2) Go to Corporations Minnesota Business & Non Profit
- 3) Go to Non Profit Renewal - Word Form or Non Profit Renewal - PDF Form

**If you have never incorporated** following are the steps to print a form to do so yourselves. There is a \$70 fee for incorporation the first time.

To print a copy:

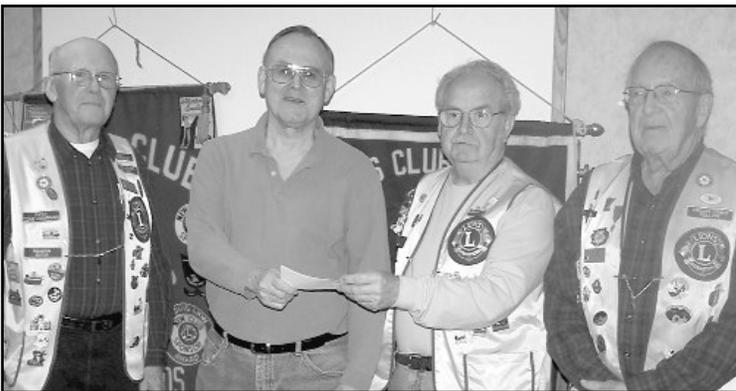
- 1) Go to Business and Non Profit Forms
- 2) Go to Corporations Minnesota Business & Non Profit
- 3) Go to Articles of Incorporation - Word Form or Articles of Incorporation - PDF Form

You can also have an attorney incorporate for you or you can call CT which is a service that has been contracted by LCI to do this for all Lions Clubs. CT does charge a fee in addition to the \$70 which it costs to incorporate. The number for CT is 1-866-331-2303 or email at [LionsClubs@wolterskluwer.com](mailto:LionsClubs@wolterskluwer.com)

For local assistance contact PDG Wayne Swanson at (R) 218-281-5922 or (B) 218-281-4343 or email [lawfirm@wayneswanson.com](mailto:lawfirm@wayneswanson.com)

He is willing and happy to assist clubs filing articles of incorporation or just answering questions.

# Park Rapids Lions donations



Lloyd Stigman, Swede Nelson and Paul Grimes presenting a \$1,720.00 check to Dave Long, director of the Park Rapids Hubbard County Food Shelf.



The Park Rapids Lions Club donated the \$1,000.00 to the hospital project.

## Continued from the front page

doctors to show. Enter Dr. Radke and team.

The priest led the group to a mission called Many Faces — which happened to be the same name as the mission in Mazatlan they had worked in the past — where they served 500 people in two days just from word of mouth.

In the meantime, a Friends of Children member called the Radkes to see how things were going. They told the member where they ended up. The Friends of Children member couldn't believe it.

Many Faces was the exact mission Friends of Children had lined up for the Lions group to work at before the paperwork fiasco canceled them working together.

"Everything fell together," Radke said.

Along the way, the Cabo Lions found boxes with 800 glasses they had from previous clinics. With those extra glasses, the American Lions were able to go into the school and see 500 more people.

About a month later, the trip to Mazatlan was much more organized — for the most part anyway — with the group having been there five times before.

The March 8-19 trip began well, with the Lions Club members zip-ping through immigration. But they were stopped at customs because of the glasses once again.

This time, Mari Radke approached the situation differently. Radke said his wife told the official at customs that the Lions were there to help her people, if she didn't let them into the country with the glasses, it was hurting her country.

After a 10-minute lecture on what to do next year with the glasses — which will mean getting more documentation next time — the woman let them through. With all of their pairs of eyeglasses.

The group worked out of a place called The Cave, a building four times the size of the Pavilion, Radke said.

The government brought people to the Lions to have their eyes checked. They saw over 1,500 people on the trip and gave away over 1,000 pairs of glasses.

"We had to quit because we ran out of glasses," Radke said.

During the two trips, there were 10 area Lions Clubs represented — Detroit Lakes, Frazee, Wolf Lake, Otter Tail, Perham, Park Rapids, Pelican Rapids, Parkers Prairie, Underwood and Palisade. Some have already signed up for next year's missions.

Although the Cabo San Lucas trip was a bit unorganized, Radke said



**Participating Lions posed for a group picture in Mexico.**

the Lions plan to visit there again next year, as well as make a trip to Mazatlan.

To raise money for the two trips, the lions Club will be selling 12-inch pots of geraniums for \$25 now through May 2, with delivery in time for Mother's Day. Plants can be purchased from any DL Lions Club member or by calling Radke at 847-8406.

## Sound donation



**Donated sound system - L-R Irv Carr, Clayton Skoglund, Oli Cajanek, Angie Martinez (Director of center at La Familia) and Kay Carr.**

The Parkers Prairie Lions Club gave several hundred dollars to Clayton for his trip and he used that to purchase a sound system for the center at La Familia.