



# Cultivating the News from 9



**Peter VanErp**  
SM9 District Governor



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## Celebrating 25 years Osage Lions are ‘heroes’ to those who know them

Story by Anna Erickson, Park Rapids Enterprise

The Osage Lions Club celebrated its 25th anniversary by sharing memories, along with an evening of dining and entertainment.

The club was formed November 15, 1983, with the Park Rapids Lions Club as its sponsor, according to a brief history by club historian Edie Branstrom. The first president was Otto Kamrud.

Past Council Chairman and New York Mills Lions member Bert Nelson spoke about heroes at the event.

“You, the Osage Lions, are heroes,” to told the crowd.

He said “H” stands for heart, “E” stands for experience, “R” stands for role model, “O” stands for opportunity, “E” stands for excitement and “S” stands for service. The Osage Lions posse all these characteristics, he said.

Nelson outlined several examples of projects over the last 25 years that the Osage Lions Club was instrumental in. The group has built many shelters and raised a lot of money for schools, he said.

“Not a lot of clubs get to 25 years,” Nelson said.

Other projects the club has been involved with over the years include the annual Walt Winkowski Fishing Tournament and erecting public restrooms at a rest stop.

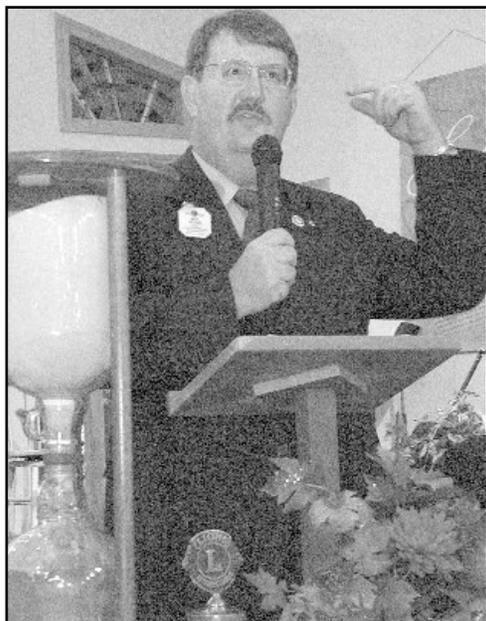
Fundraisers are numerous and include selling oversized ripened Colorado peaches. Starting with 150 boxes 15

years ago, the club now sells 1,200 each year.

Osage Lions Club president Jerry Gorden said he is excited to have new members join the club and see what the next 25 years have in store.

District Governor Peter VanErp was at the celebration and handed out several awards of service, as well as Helen Keller Sight Awards and a Melvin Jones Fellow Award.

The Pine Avenue Quartet provided musical entertainment during the evening.



**Past Council Chairman Bert Nelson** spoke about heroes at the Osage Lions 25th anniversary.



**District Governor Peter VanErp (right)** presented a Helen Keller Sight awards to Osage Lions Lou Mertz (left) and Boyd Sharp (2nd from right) and a Melvin Jones Fellowship to Esther Henderson (2nd from left) during Osage Lions Club 25th Anniversary celebration.



# 5M9 District Governor Peter VanErp

keep the wheels, soil and minds turning



## Cultivating our Minds... Let our Service Grow

### Dear Lion, Lioness, and Leo's

The leaves are falling, the air is crisp, and we even had a 1/2 inch of ice on a water pail outside this a.m., but no mosquitoes. We also have the rifle season for deer hunting coming up fast. We will have a house full of hunters and family. Each year more grandchildren are old enough to join in the hunt.

I am writing this article as my partner in service, Lion Margaret is driving us to one of our club visits. Some weeks we haven't cooked supper at all but have enjoyed some delicious meals with our fellow Lions. Wow, what can I say? We have so many Lions that are everyday Heroes making miracles happen right in their own communities. Many times we as Lions don't think we make a difference in someone's life because of our motto "WE SERVE". We don't give ourselves the credit we certainly have coming.

The ground breaking ceremony for the Hospice House in Fergus Falls was on Oct. 27th. It is great to get this project underway before the weather gets real cold.

The handicap cabin at Camp KACE has been started also. They are in the process of getting it closed in before the snow flies.

We got some exciting news today from Lion Bruce Billington that our 5M9 Project New Hope has just been selected by the MN Timberwolves as the recipient of a FastBreak Foundation's \$10,000 grant. In November the MN Timberwolves will be in Minnesota and will be honoring military families and that Project New Hope has been selected as the best MN project for MN military families. Project New Hope has been asked to man a booth at the game and then will receive the grant during an on court presentation on Saturday Nov. 1 at the Target Center as the Timberwolves take on the Dallas Mavericks at 7:00 pm. Way to go Project New Hope and Congratulations to Lions Bruce, Dale and Aaron. You have done a Super Great job.

It is time to finalize your plans to attend the Mid-Winter Convention in Mahanomen January 9-11, 2009. Make it a mini vacation for yourselves. There will be some very good speakers and seminars to attend. Let's all join together and have one big party with our Lion friends.

Those of you that have expressed interest in going to the Regional Leadership Institute April 16-19, 2009 and have picked up application forms PLEASE get them to me as soon as possible or at least by Dec. 1st.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of the Lions in 5M9 for giving me this opportunity to serve this year as your District Governor. First Lady Lion Margaret and I have learned so much from all of you in our travels around the District already and we still have many more travels to come in the months ahead. We have enjoyed every minute (well most every minute) of it. All of you are truly the Everyday Heroes working in each of your communities and in the world.

Keep those minds and hearts cultivating up the work of Lionism.

**Until next month,  
DG Peter Van Erp**



**District Governor Peter presents Osage Lion Marie Kamrud a certificate of years of service and an appreciation certificate from the district for her service as First Lady.**

## The 5M9 Cultivating the News from 9



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

### District Governor

Peter VanErp (Margaret)  
38214 610th Ave.  
Bluffton, MN 56518  
H (218) 385-3446  
petemarg@arvig.net

### Vice District Governor

Jim Arvidson (Linda)  
10858 625th Ave.  
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361-9611  
H (218) 338-5051  
Fax: (218) 639-5323  
momdad@midwestinfo.com

### Cabinet Secretary

Carol Thaemert  
P.O. Box 223  
Aitkin, MN 56431  
W (218) 768-4653  
C: (952) 393-4045  
cethaemert@charter.net

### District Treasurer

Dale Johansen (Betty)  
21008 Cty Hwy 35  
Underwood, MN 56586  
H (218) 826-6834  
dalebet@prtcl.com

### Editor

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  
bertnelson@lakesplus.com  
Please submit stories, photos  
with Captions), ads and other  
material to the editor before the  
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# Pete's Places to be

## November

- 1 Help babysit at Camp New Hope
- 3 Induct new members at Nimrod
- 5 Richville Lions visit
- 6 Pelican Rapids Lions visit
- 7-9 Deer Hunting
- 10 Wadena Lions visit
- 11 Vergas Lions visit
- 12 New York Mills Lions 40th Anniversary
- 13 NYM 40th for community Len Quinn
- 17 Zone 1 mtg Pillager
- 18 Zone 4 mtg Cass Lake
- 19 Zone 3 mtg Crosslake
- 20 Zone 5 mtg Bluffton (also Convention planning mtg)
- 24 Cass Lake & Cass Lake Lake Country visit
- 24 Zone 7 mtg Frazee
- 25 Park Rapids Lions visit
- 26 Dalton Lions visit
- 27 Thanksgiving Day with our family

## December

- 1 Zone 8 mtg Dalton
- 2 FF Daybreakers & Elizabeth Lions visit
- 3 Frazee & Wolf Lake Lions Visit
- 4 Urbank Lions visit
- 7 Hewitt, Bertha Lions and Hewitt Lioness
- 8 Osage Lions visit
- 11 Pillager Lions visit
- 12 Walker Lions visit
- 15 Christmas Party, Bluffton
- 23 Laporte/Benedict Lions visit
- 25 Christmas Day

## January

- 1 The New Year 2009
- 9-11 5M9 Mid-Winter Conv, Mahnomen
- 12 Breckenridge and Campbell Lions visit
- 14 New York Mills Lions visit
- 21 Deer Creek Lions visit
- 22 Parkers Prairie Lions visit
- 26 McGregor Lions visit

## February

- 5 Perham Lions visit
- 9 Nisswa Lions visit
- 11 Pine River visit
- 14 Battle Lake Lions visit
- 16 Aldrich, Verndale Lions and Lioness
- 21 Underwood Lions & Lioness visit

## March

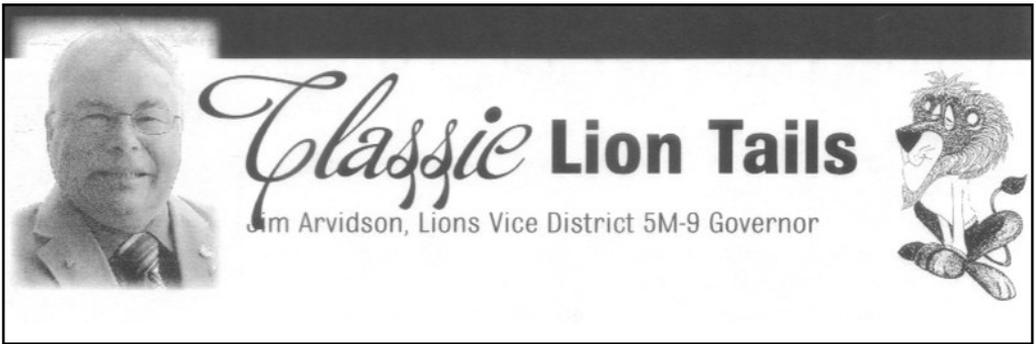
- 9 Pequot Lakes Breezy Point Lions visit
- 21 Council of Governors mtg
- 29 5M9 Cabinet mtg (where?)

## April

- 7 Menahga Lions visit
- 13 Guthrie-Nary Lions visit
- 14 Palisade Area Lions visit
- 23 Zone 4 mtg Park Rapids
- 27 Baxter Lions visit

## May

- 11 Parkers Prairie Pride Lions visit
- 14 Hackensack Lions visit
- 18 Emily Outing 50 Lakes Lions visit



TOP DOG ! We had the great experience earlier this month of traveling to the Leader Dog facility in Rochester, Michigan. It is an amazing program that they have there to graduate and place over 250 guide dogs yearly. They truly are "Making a Difference" in the lives of the visually impaired. They are also introducing technology into the program with portable GPS units to further the capability of the guide dog and owner. The "Top Dog" Award has been implemented to recognize a club in the top twenty contributors. Other recognition is also available. Please call our District Leader Dog chairs: Dick Kimball and David Petry. Invite them to your meeting!

Also, keep in mind that Len Quinn and Ginger are coming to our District in November to visit local schools and be here for New York Mills 40th anniversary. Thank you to the NYM Lions for making this possible.

October has been a very busy month. As soon as we landed from Michigan, we drove up to Nisswa for IPDG Annette's Mini-Forum where she surprised several well-deserving Lions with District Awards. Two days later, we were in Mahnomen for three days of leadership training. (Both Linda and I took a lot of notes). We also were part of a seminar put on by Lions' International Global Membership Team. Our District was very well represented by our MERLO team. Our goal will be to add one, two or maybe more new clubs in the next two years while keeping our current clubs and members strong and vital.

We have been to Zone meetings, where we have seen and heard of all the exciting and successful projects that your clubs are doing. Keep up the good work !

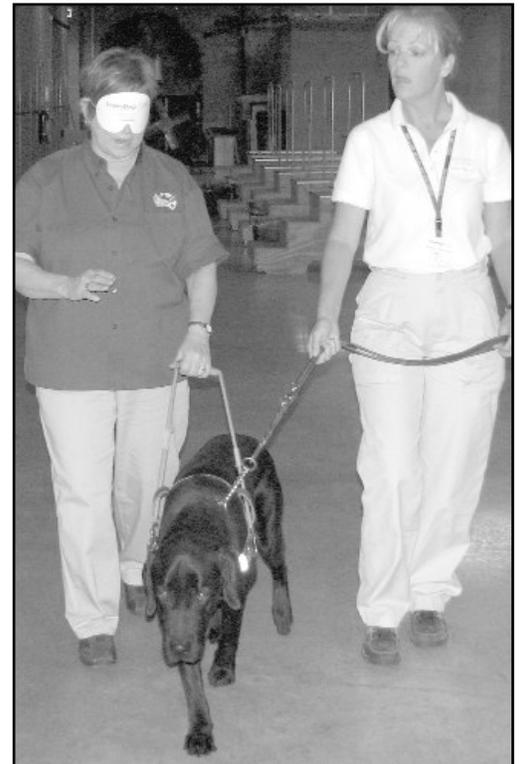
I attended, along with several of you, the ground breaking ceremony on Oct. 27 for the Lakeland Hospice House. We have a ways to go to get our \$75,000 Grant for this, but I know we can and will work together to reach this goal.

Other exciting news was that Lions International came to do some pictures and interview with Project New Hope. PNH is also receiving a \$10,000 grant which will be presented at the Minnesota Timberwolves game on Nov. 1. Congratulations!

Linda and I attended the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank "Thanksgiving for Vision" where we were reminded that we really do need to be thankful for our Sight. Please help us to continue "Serving" - "So that Others May See."

VDG Jim

Ole found out that Life is Like Good Wine - Best taken with Friends



Lion Linda being lead around by a Leader Dog.



'58 Chevy

# Hospice House getting closer to \$1.8 million goal



**Parkers Prairie Lions Club President Rick Gappa presents a check to Tammy Anderson, Fund Development Coordinator of Lakeland Hospice, and Lions Secretary Gene Payne.**

The Parkers Prairie Lions Club (men's club) donated \$1,500 to the Lakeland Hospice Home in Fergus Falls. The donation is part District 5M9's efforts to reach \$75,000 in support of the \$1.8 million dollar project. When the goal of \$75,000 is reached, the L.C.I.F. brand of Lions International will match the \$75,000 with another \$75,000.

The Hospice Home project is going great! \$1.5 million has already been reached and the ground breaking for the new home is only weeks away. "The Lions really helped it (the Hospice Home project) gain momentum," said Tammy Anderson, Fund Development Coordinator for Lakeland Hospice. The Lions were one of the first organizations to jump

into the project.

Lakeland Hospice was founded in Fergus Falls in 1984 as the area's first provider of hospice care to people diagnosed with a terminal illness.

The goal of Hospice House is to provide extraordinary health care to every patient, promoting independence, comfort, and dignity through all stages of life. Hospice isn't about dying; it's about living each day to the fullest.

The house will be this region's first residential hospice facility. People in the counties of Otter Tail, Grant, Clay, Becker, Wadena, Wilkin, Traverse, Douglas, Stevens, Pope, Swift, and Roberts County, South Dakota, will benefit from the wonderful care Hospice House has to offer.

Hospice House is able to care for every eligible patient, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Room and board is on a private pay basis with a sliding fee based on income.

To donate to this influential campaign, contact your local Lions' Club or send donations to Bremer Bank, attention Lion Jesse Mark, 2330 College Way, Fergus Falls, MN 56537. Make checks payable to Hospice House.

For more information contact Tammy Anderson, Lakeland Hospice, 218-998-1423.

## Project New Hope on display



Dale and Betty Johansen, from the Dalton Lions and Underwood Lioness Clubs with the display booth that Project New Hope had at the USA/CANADA Forum in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Aaron and Carrie Nickerson of the East Kildonan Lions Club of the Winipeg, Manitoba area also helped man the booth. The response from both sides of the border far exceeded our expectations. All four of the people who worked the booth were asked if they traveled to speak about the program. Thanks to everyone who supports this much needed program.

## Project New Hope Benefit Golf Tournament



**R-L: Laker Lions Pres. Pat Meyer giving check to Bruce Billington from Project New Hope, Mike Wilder the Laker Lions golf tournament chairman, Kelly and Mike Stone, owners of Crosswoods Golf Course.**

Mike Wilder of the Laker Lions from Emily, Outing and Fifty Lakes joined forces with Mike and Kelly Stone of Crosswoods Golf Course in Crosslake to sponsor a golf tournament for the benefit of Project New Hope in McGregor, MN. Bruce Billington from the Pequot Lakes Breezy Point Lions was instrumental in starting this great project. The event was held on Friday, August 22 and was a great success in that we raised \$2000.

Project New Hope's mission is to provide Veterans and their families the education, training, and skills necessary to manage their families after wartime service.

# Mid Winter Convention notes and reminders

## Club newsletter and Brag book contests

All clubs with a newsletter and Brag Books are encouraged to bring them to the Mid-Winter Convention. You need to bring January 1, 2008 to to December 31, 2008 newsletters.

Newsletters and Books are to be placed on the display table by Saturday noon at the Mid-Winter Convention to be eligible for judging. A traveling trophy will be awarded on Sunday at the end of the convention.

## Club Website contest

1. How up to date is the site?
2. Does the site communicate with the membership well - Upcoming meetings, events, etc.?

3. Does the site communicate with the community - How to become a member, fundraisers, functions, etc.?

4. Is the site tidy, eye appealing, attractive?

5. Can the site be easily navigated - is it laid out well?

If you'd like to submit your club's site or have any questions, please contact Lion Jim Johansen at [jkjohansen@juno.com](mailto:jkjohansen@juno.com) or Lion Erin Beck at [thebecks@mlcwb.net](mailto:thebecks@mlcwb.net)

## Resolutions

Since there is little time to give due consideration of operating resolutions presented at these conventions and permit more time for discussion and deliberation. All resolutions affecting the business and operations of District 5M-9 be filed with the resolutions committee no later than five (5) days prior to the opening of the convention. This is done so all resolutions may be presented at the opening business session at the convention.

## Guidelines for contests

Guidelines for the Brag Book and newsletter contests at the Mid Winter Convention. The judges are asked to look at a number of items in the books.

They include:

1. Over all appearance
2. Photos with cutlines (names of people in photo)
3. Newspaper articles and clippings
4. Order (by the month or events)
5. Story: what was involved in doing a project, cost, man hours, etc.
6. Programs of events: Mid Winter Convention, Multiple Convention, etc.

7. Membership names and officers

8. Miscellaneous

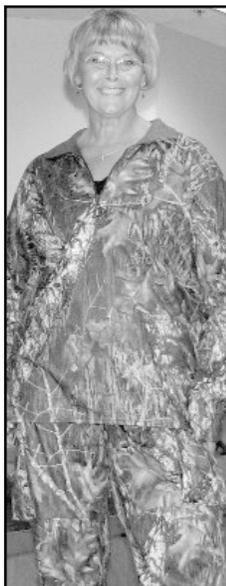
All these items are given points on a 1 to 5 scale and are judged on their own merit. But these items are just guidelines and the judges have the final decision.



## Striking a pose

Lions Bert Nelson (left) and Linda Norby (right) helped the Parkers Prairie Pride of Lions club with their Wine and Ale tasting and style show.

The Pride of Lions also had a silent auction and raffle. They raised over \$4,000 that evening.



# WELCOME NEW LIONS MEMBERS TO 5M9!

New Member	Club	Sponsor
Horace Boyer	Akeley	Frank Lamb
Martha Boyer	Akeley	
Stacey Moore	Akeley	Deloris Lamb
Thomas Moore	Akeley	Deloris Lamb
Brandy Vredenburg	Akeley	Deloris Lamb
Teri Cain	Aldrich	DeEtta Bilek
Dale DeYounge	Aldrich	DeEtta Bilek
Rick Bemis	Crosslake Ideal	Joseph Doerfler
Diane Corey	Garrison	Georjann Deutsch
James Corey	Garrison	Georjann Deutsch
Ann Bertrand	Nisswa	Karen Baloun
Dennis Bertrand	Nisswa	Bernard Baloun
Brian Lehman	Nisswa	James Dullum
Lyle Steffenson	Nisswa	Delmar Fisher
Jerome Swenson	Nisswa	Michael Rempe
James Fruth	Pequot Lakes/Breezy Point	Bruce Billington
Steven Weagel	Pequot Lakes/Breezy Point	Bruce Billington
Charlene LaFon	Whitefish	Shirley Doerfler
Kathryn Thomas	Whitefish	Donna Leagjed

## Lions we will miss

Armella Lynch  
Ken Maki

Aldrich Lions Club  
New York Mills Lions Club

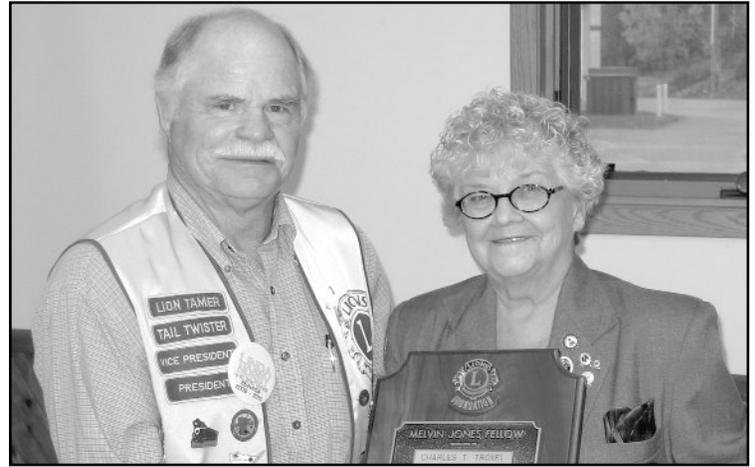
Club secretaries, please review and send or email your deceased member's photo to: Lion Jim Johansen  
8103 210th Street North, Hawley, MN 56549  
[jkjohansen@juno.com](mailto:jkjohansen@juno.com) 218-483-1121

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

# 2007-08 District 5M9 awards



**Brent Frazier** of the Pelican Rapids Lions Club received a Melvin Jones Fellowship.



**Charles Troxel** of the Laporte-Benedict Lions Club received a Melvin Jones Fellowship.



**International Newsletter Contest**  
Lion **Bert Nelson** received Honorable Mention in the International Newsletter Contest.



**District Environment Award**  
Lion **Ardean Bragalla**, Cass Lake Lions Working to encourage Lions and the public to preserve the environment.



**District Lions Opportunities for Youth**  
Lions **Linda and Jay Norby**, Vergas Lions Club. For their work with the youth encouraging Lions to host youth and make use of the opportunity to travel to faraway places.



**Best New Service Project**  
Lions **Dale Johansen** and **Bruce Billington** accepted the International Certificate for the Project New Hope.



**Lions Services for Children**  
**Underwood Lioness**  
The mighty 8 Lioness Shoebox gifts for children, poster contest, dictionaries, scholarships to high school seniors.



**Outstanding Club Banner Patch**  
**Parkers Prairie Lions and Parkers Prairie Pride of Lions Clubs**  
For sponsoring the Peace Poster Contest and taking participants to New York Mills to see the Peace Poster exhibit.

# 2007-08 District 5M9 awards



Sandy Paulson of the Fergus Falls Daybreakers Lions Club received a Melvin Jones Fellowship.



Wayne Myrvik of the Elizabeth Lions Club received a Melvin Jones Fellowship.



**LEO Chairperson Award**  
Lion **Linda Alertgott**, Deerwood Lakes Lions club For her hard work and success in advising the DECUBA Leo's Club.



**Cultural & Community Activities Banner Patch New York Mills Lions Club Certificate of Appreciation** Lion **Dennis Anderson** for chairing the effort to get the International Peace Poster traveling poster display to the area.



**International Relations Award Certificate**  
Lions **Joan and Jack Riordan**, Pine River Lions Club He has worked with International Health Service for 26 years in Honduras. Also helped the Honduras Lions with Lions City, hurricane FeFe, the refugee city, sewer and water for the city International Health built.



**Diabetes Awareness Award**  
Lion **Jim Bergstrom**, Garrison Lions Club Working to make the Diabetes Awareness Program well-known throughout the district's communities.

## 2007-2008 Club President Excellence Award

Lion **Elaine Bruss**  
Aitkin Riverboat Lions  
Lion **Chuck Reeve** Battle Lake Lions  
Lion **Diana Galloway**  
Crosslake Ideal Whitefish  
Lion **Sandy Paulson**  
Fergus Falls Daybreakers Lions  
Lion **John Quaal** Underwood Lions  
Lioness **Betty Johansen**  
Underwood Lioness

## 2007-2008 100% Club Secretary

Lioness **Gloriann Tritsch Hewitt** Lioness  
Lion **Margaret VanErp** Bluffton Lions  
Lion **Vi Bergman** Frazee Lions  
Lioness **Judy Vogel** Underwood Lioness  
Lion **Frank Vogel**  
Underwood Area Lions  
Lion **Ginny Paulson**  
Fergus Falls Daybreakers  
Lion **Sue Ruschmeier**  
Aitkin Riverboat Lions  
Lion **Brent Frazier** Pelican Rapids Lions

# Richville Lions hosts a down-home, old fashioned party in the pasture

The Richville Lions Club "Pasture Party" has become one of the most unique events in the East Otter Tail farm and lake country. A mechanical bronco, petting zoo, mutton riding and even hula-hooping were among the activities.

"Our goal was to provide a day of old-fashioned fun that you just don't find many places," said Lisa Werner, Richville Lion.

"Something different... such as the pig races, mutton busting, tug of war. It didn't matter what size you were for the tug -- if you wanted to do it, we found a team for you. Hopefully, it will leave folks with some wonderful memories of the day they spent out in the middle of a pasture."

A cornstone of the event is the truck and tractor pull -- which was a record this year. With 160 units involved, it was more than 50 units more than past years.

There were more than 100 tractors and trucks, and 38 ATVs -- which pulled until nearly midnight.

Organizing the 11th annual pull was Arv Widness.

Just old-fashion fun! Bronco busting (left) or seeing if you can hula hoop (below).



Right: Richville Lions proudly display their "Pasture Party" t-shirts. Heidi Sauer, Adonna Fithen, Pam Haverland and (front) Aurora Sauer.



## A night of awards

It was an exciting October meeting for the Lakes Lions/Perham as the 5M9 District Governor visited and many awards were given out. Perfect attendance pins were given to 19 members and 10 year membership pins were given to Lions Joe Guck, Mary Ann Guck and Lorraine Johnson. The highlight of the evening came when Lion Sue Dykstra was presented a Helen Keller Sight Award for her dedication and hard work she has given to Lions. A Melvin Jones Fellow award was presented to Lion Rosie Altstadt for her years of service and dedication she has given to the Lions. Both these fine Lions are very deserving of these awards and we congratulate them both.

Pictured left are Lakes Lions President Don Hendrickx, Lions Sue Dykstra, Rosie Altstadt and District Governor Peter Van Erp.

## Get a jump on Christmas.... And some goodies for the Deer Hunters!

The Backus Lions will hold their annual **Holiday Craft and Bake Sale** from 8 am to 12:30 pm on **Saturday, Nov. 8** at the **Backus City Hall**. Many beautiful, handcrafted items will be on sale plus homemade baked goods.

Proceeds from this sale benefit the philanthropic activity of the club including high school scholarships, food shelves, Christmas for Kids, Relay For Life, service dog organizations, our local schools and nursing homes.

# Good luck Vern

by Kelley Gorman, The Press, Pelican Rapids

If you think kids change a lot in one year, puppies change by leaps and bounds above that. Seven times as much, one might say. Vern, the Yellow Labrador service dog in training being taught in Pelican Rapids by Jenny Berube is no exception. In just under one year he has gone from 25 pounds (at 13 weeks old) to 74 pounds. He has gone from knowing just the basic commands of sit and stay to knowing a whole vocabulary of words and hand signs that he will need to know if and when he is placed as a service dog to a person who needs the help of a four-legged aid. With all the change, he has also retained the same swagger he had



before he grew into his paws. Berube believes his confidence and personality will be an asset as he heads for his next phases of training.

"He is very self confident," she said. "He is sure of himself. That makes me feel good, maybe that means he will do better with the transitions."

She is a little worried about him making it all the way through, not because he failed to learn anything she tried to teach, but because a few of his litter mates have already been cut from the program. Not bad dogs, just a temperament not fully suited to a life of duty instead of play and typical pet fare. While she feels Vern possesses the focus and toughness to proceed, it is ultimately up to others to decide if he will work out.

As stated in the initial story done about Vern earlier (see the February 6 Press) Berube stated her interest in training an animal that would be therapeutic to a human. Most service dogs end up working with handicapped or special needs individuals. They handle little tasks like picking up things, pushing the handicap automatic door buttons and alerting others if their owner is having difficulties, but they are also a physical comfort, a constant companion. Berube knows what it is like to be shadowed by Vern. He has been her project for many months and as he was a service dog in training,

she literally took him everywhere. Whether it be to the store, church, football games or her children's classes, Berube exposed Vern to as many things as possible to help prepare him for any setting he might be exposed to with his eventual owner.

At the end of her time with him, she still felt the same, she was glad she had sought out an organization to work through and was amazed at how tightly she bonded with Vern. Letting him go was very hard.

"It was heartbreaking," she recalled of his departure last Wednesday evening. "I had taken him on one last round of escalators and elevators before I went out to dinner with my daughter. I was fine right up until I had to pay

**While reading with the Berube family in Pelican Rapids, service dog in training, Vern, was more than just a pupil, he became part of the family. From the first day with the family (left) until his last night (right), he grew nearly 50 pounds.**

for the meal and then it hit me. I didn't want to cry, but it was hard not to. He didn't want to get in his crate and be taken away. It was very sad."

The question she gets often is if she will fill the void left by Vern with another service dog provided through Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota. Her answer is that she isn't sure. She is in a different job now than she was when Vern arrived and she has less time at home. Berube also feels she needs to see Vern complete his training so she can see him placed in a home where she can know it turned out well and can feel some closure on the whole deal.

"I think I need to see Vern complete his education and be happy with his final family before I can decide to do this again."

Her kids were ready for another animal right away. There will be no replacing Vern, however, even if another dog does enter their lives. Each animal has its own personality and reacts to things differently. Plus, there is the possibility that Vern may return to Pelican anyway. Berube said that if he gets turned out of the program for whatever reason, the organization will attempt to fit him to another specialty. If that doesn't work, he may just become someone's pet. The Berubes could ask to be that family, something Jenny said they wouldn't hesitate to do.

"I'd rather see him fulfill his training, but we

would totally take him as a pet. Several people here have already said he belongs here. He is kind of the town dog," she said.

With all the time he spent out in public and around the town, he was perhaps more visible than any pet in Pelican. Combined with his bright red vest, he was hard to miss, at least once he got higher than the curb.

Berube remembers standing in a snow bank at two in the morning, trying to encourage Vern to do his business. If there was a low point in their relationship, that would have been it. But there were so many fun things that they did, both business and pleasure. Outside of his demanding training sessions, Vern enjoyed parks, river banks and forest paths



with his first family. Jenny said he developed this way of playing with the kids where he would gently nibble them with his teeth, tickling them until they returned a stolen toy or a dog treat. Those were the high points and the things they will remember most. Not that they could ever completely forget the little dog with a big heart. They have hundreds of pictures, scrapbooks full of time spent with Vern. A time, it has turned out, that was all too brief.

Right now he is headed to his second of three phases of training. He will either head to another home, or more likely, to a detention facility where inmates at a low-security prison are used to work one-on-one with the dogs. It sounds weird she said, that he is "going to jail," but it is a good program that seems to be good for the dogs and the people involved. From there he will receive further specialized attention before being deemed capable of being a full-time service dog.

As Jenny waits to see where Vern ends up and how far he gets, she is stuck with one other dilemma: finding an alarm clock as effective as a paw swiping the side of her bed and puppy dog eyes looking at her in anticipation of a trip outside.

# Frazee and Wolf Lake Lions invite you to '5M9 Shines in '09'

## Mid-Winter Convention, January 9, 10 & 11 Shooting Star Casino, Mahnommen

Lions of 5M9 the Lions of Frazee and Wolf Lake are inviting all of you to come and shine at the 2009 Lions Midwinter Convention in Mahnommen, January 9, 10, & 11. All you have to do is complete the convention registration form found in this newsletter and send it in. Remember Lions you can bring guests. Just register them too. The more we have at the convention the more the Lions light will shine.

In last month's newsletter, you read that the S.L.O.G. would be entertaining you at the mixer on Friday evening.

Here's what's happening on Saturday. The day begins with a breakfast at the Shooting Star Buffet. There will be an Honors Recognition and a time to browse the Lions displays. After breakfast the seminars will begin. You'll hear a dynamic presentation about membership from Lion Aaron Nickerson of Clandeboye, Manitoba. Our own Lion Jim Fry will introduce you to new technology for the blind. There will be an update on Project New Hope. This will also be combined with a personal story from Lion Nickerson on his military experiences and work with Project New Hope. The Eye Bank will be telling us about corneal transplants and it is possible a donor family will tell the Lions how your gifts have helped them.

The Saturday noon luncheon speaker is Shelly Hiemer, a brittle diabetic, and her hearing and service dog. She will tell and show us how she and her dog work together so that she can have a quality life.

Saturday afternoon has been reserved for the Lions business

meeting, an alternate program for non-delegates and guests or just relaxation.

Saturday evening, International Director Larry Johnson will speak. Immediately following the banquet and program, "The Memories" will fill us with music, cause us to laugh and remind us of wonderful times. We will meet Ole Torgerson and his buddy, Elmer. There will be beauty and laughter everywhere as the Lions of 5M9 shine brightly.

Read your December newsletter Convention Highlights to see what is in store for you on Sunday.

January 9, 10, & 11 will be full of light and warmth at the Shooting Star Casino & Convention Center because you will be there shining.

### Governor's Contest - Top Clubs



Zone 1 Garrison

Zone 2 Bay Lake Area

Zone 3 Emily Outing 50  
Lakes

Zone 4 Laporte/Benedict

Zone 5 Bluffton

Zone 6 Perham Lakes

Zone 7 Frazee

Zone 8 Elizabeth

Zone 9 Underwood Area

### Lion Jim Johansen's Polar Cruise Challenge For Project New Hope

#### The Challenge

Raise \$7200 for Project New Hope  
between July 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008

#### THE Reasoning (madness?)

72 Clubs in 5M-9 times (That means 100% participation)  
100 miles roundtrip from Jim's home to Shooting Star Casino  
Equals \$7200

#### The Reward?

Lion Jim Johansen rides his  
1984 Honda XL350R Motorcycle to Mid-Winter 2009

#### The Clause

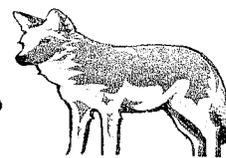
1. Honda Clause if the motorcycle does not start it will be loaded into a pickup and Lion Jim will ride the motorcycle in the back of the pickup.(the motorcycle will be in a heated shop)
2. If the Roads are excessively icy the motorcycle will be loaded into a pickup and Lion Jim will ride the motorcycle in the back of the pickup.

#### Donations

Send them to Lion Bruce Billington or PDG Dale Johansen



# 5M9 SHINES IN '09



## 5M9 MID-WINTER CONVENTION

FRAZEE LIONS

WOLF LAKE LIONS

Official Registration Packet Order Form

January 9, 10 & 11, 2009

Shooting Star Casino & Convention Center, Mahnomen, MN

Hosted by Frazee & Wolf Lake Lions

Please fill out this registration form for each person attending and return it with a check made out to the 2009 - 5M9 Midwinter Convention

Please print clearly:

Lion     Lioness     Leo     Guest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 2009 Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check if this is your first 5M9 Convention

Please Circle the amount you are paying and registering for;

### HOSPITALITY BOOKS

### Meal and Entertainment Tickets

Includes all Meals and Entertainment  
Cost Prior to December 1, 2008    \$90  
Cost On or After December 1, 2008    \$95

Friday Entertainment	No Charge
Saturday Breakfast	\$10.00
Saturday Luncheon	\$20.00
Saturday Banquet/Show	\$55.00
Sunday Brunch	\$20.00

Total amount of your check: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail registration and check to:    **2009 5M9 Mid-Winter Convention**  
C/O Joyce Ramsay  
16596 Wolf Pack Road  
Menahga, MN 56464

**NO room reservations will be honored without a confirmed convention registration.** After I receive your convention registration, I will send you information on how to complete your hotel room registration. Emergency refund of registration must be request by December 21, 2008. A \$25 handling fee will be charged. Questions regarding the convention: call Eldon Bergman 218-334-5841 or Lyle Mickelson 218-334-7054    Rooms are \$75 per night at the Shooting Star Casino.

# Battle Lake Lions Club purchases first 'SMART Board' at school



Battle Lake Lions Mike Adkins, Secretary; Bob Westgard, Treasurer and Chuck Reeve, Immediate Past President pose with the SMART Board the Club purchased this past spring which was installed in the classroom of Science teacher, Dave Himmelspach, right.

Bringing some of the newest technology to the classroom, the Battle Lake Lions stepped forward with the purchase of the very first SMART Board for the Battle Lake School in the spring of 2008. This board was installed in the science classroom of Dave Himmelspach, and he is extremely pleased with the acceptance by the students with this new learning tool.

So, what is a SMART Board? It is an interactive whiteboard which brings a whole new level of interactivity to the classroom. The touch-sensitive display connects to the classroom computer and digital projector to show the computer image. You can then control computer applications directly from the display, write notes in digital ink and save your work to share.

Looking at the board in the photo, it shows an image of a frog. By using the tool bar, students can touch the scalpel and actually dissect the frog at the board while the teacher and other students watch.

As you can imagine, the applications are endless in other classrooms as well, whether teaching, math, English or history. The Battle Lake School presently has five SMART Boards in the classrooms.

The Battle Lake Lions Club has given generously to the Battle Lake School over the years. They have purchased sound systems used in the classrooms and given to the development of the playground and athletic complex. The club is not involved in charitable gaming and raises their money through fund raisers such as peach sales, pancake breakfasts, brat and pork sandwich sales, to name a few.

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Peter VanErp  
District Governor 5M9  
38214 610th Avenue  
Bluffton, MN 56518

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