



# THE LIONS CLAUSE

## A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE

# COLUMBUS NORTHEAST LIONS CLUB

Volume 60 Issue 6

December 2009

Editors: John & Martha Strahan

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Dec. 8 Annual Christmas Party  
LaScala Restaurant, 7:00 p.m.  
Dec. 15 Board Meeting  
Huntington Center, 7:00 p.m.  
Dec. 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
Jan. 15, 16, 17 Winter Retreat  
Mohican State Lodge  
Jan. 23, 24 District Bowling Tourney  
Capri Lanes.

### **MISSION STATEMENT OF LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL**

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet Humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions Clubs

### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAY**

Dec. 9 Alice Stacy

### **LION MARK WRITES**

Hello fellow Lions. The holiday season is upon us, if all of the ongoing sales don't say Happy Holidays the incoming cold weather sure does. I wonder if Lion Van and Peggy have room for all of us in Florida. I am not ready for the cold weather. HA HA!

As I said at the last meeting, Traci, Great Job on the website. I just got two more e-mails from individuals regarding our eyeglass program. One needs help with getting glasses and one from a convent of nuns wanting to donate their used eyeglasses. This makes me proud to be a Lion!

Again, as always, please continue working hard in Lionism as we do on a continuous basis. And while the Christmas Season continues and the New Year approaches lets get ready to kick 2010 off with a very loud LION ROAR with activities and fund raisers.

Let us keep our families and friends in our thoughts and prayers of good wishes, as well as our troops overseas. Including the 30,000 that will be leaving at the first of the year.

Let us also keep Lion Doug in our thoughts as he battles with his health issues.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

President Lion Mark

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The annual Christmas Party will be held 7:00 p.m. on December 8 at the La Scala Restaurant on SR 161 in Dublin. The menu consists of Chicken Parmagiana (\$25), or Lasagna (\$20), salad, Bread, spumoni ice cream and beverage (coffee, tea, iced tea and milk). Entertainment will be provided by

several members of the OSU NROTC Choir.

There will be no gift exchange this year but there will be a number of door prizes to be given away.

### **HEALTH ISSUES FOR LION DOUG**

Lion Doug Smith, our ever popular Tail Twister, is having some health problems. Prior to the meeting last week he was having severe stomach pains. He went to University Hospital, had a number of tests and was referred to a specialist. At this writing the exact problem is not known to us. Keep Lion Doug and Kay in your prayers. Also, it might cheer him up a little bit if you would send him a card.

### **WELCOME, LIONS AUDREY AND RITA**

Lions Audrey Webber and Rita Couch, members of the Northland Lions Club, have transferred their membership to the Columbus Northeast Lions Club. Ladies, you are most welcome.

Lion Audrey is no stranger to us. She is the wife of Lion Joe Webber and has attended many of our meetings with him. In addition, she has, for years, worked faithfully for our white cane and newspaper sales.

Lion Rita is known to many of our older members. She is the widow of Lion Jim Couch, a past president of the Columbus Northeast Lions. Lion Rita now resides in Wadsworth, Ohio where she is near to her family.

Both of these Ladies have a long history of Lionism, having been members of our Auxiliary, then Lionesses and finally Lions.

### **THE LION ROB MILLS CHALLENGE**

Response to my \$500.00 challenge to club has been excellent and the goal is within reach. The goal of the challenge is to help 34 O S S B kids, marching in Rose parade to have some pocket money.

That \$1000.00 check Lion Sal will write will be sent to Blind School or passed directly to Lion Lou Mazzoli who is going at his own expense with Kids. He will make sure each band member gets the spending money our club will provide each one of these hard working students.

If we make a little more than \$1000.00, that wouldn't be a bad thing. So Come on Columbus Northeast lions, drain that \$500.00 completely from me Thanks, Lion Rob.

### **LION RAY'S STORY**

On November 13, 1932 the world welcomed George R. Empson.

The world was in the worst depression of the century. My family had just arrived in Northern Ireland from Australia weeks before I was born. I was the youngest of the family with three brothers and two sisters to fuss over me during the next few years.

The family was good during the 1930's. Then the war began between Germany and the rest of Europe, which changed my life forever. In the winter of 1939-1940 my Dad was caught up in the evacuation of Dunkirk; it was weeks before the family knew if he was still alive. June 6, 1940 witnessed another family tragedy when my oldest brother (19) Walter was killed when the H.M.S. Glorious he was serving on, was sunk by a German U-boat in the North Sea.

Life stayed the same as the war progressed. As kids, we had fun practicing wearing gas masks, getting up in the middle of the night, running to get in the Air Raid Shelter. After the All Clear was sounded, returning home and seeing some of our friend's homes demolished, wondering will our house be still standing.

I left school at age 14 and completed a 5-year apprenticeship in the machinist trade, attending the Technical High School 2 nights each week. I received my journeyman's credentials just prior to immigrating to the USA, that was January 1953.

The Korean War was still an issue, so the US draft board signed me up on the S.S. Franconia before landing in New York Harbor. I had \$28 in my pocket when I arrived in New York; I bought a ticket to Columbus for \$12.

My oldest sister was G.I. war bride and her husband was from Westerville, hence the reason for traveling to Columbus. My brother-in-law sponsored me. In those days if you sponsored someone you were responsible for the actions of that person, or the sponsored person would be shipped home.

I walked the streets of Columbus looking for work. The answer was always the same. Your credentials are great, however, you are draft age and not a citizen, and sorry we can't hire you. I ended up working for my brother-in-law at his Sohio station, 60 hours a week for \$50. I really enjoyed this new vocation. I ended up buying a station and spending the rest of my working years fixing cars.

Before I got involved with my own business, the US Army thought it best I spend 2 years in the service of my newly adopted country. I was drafted on February 1, 1955 and after basic training

I was assigned to the 64<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Later that year I became a US citizen in the courthouse in Honolulu.

Upon my return, Sohio offered me a franchise for the Sohio station at Oakland Park and Cleveland Avenue and I continued taking care of customer's car problems for 37 years.

Over the years I attended several schools, one school, owned by the Big Three automakers in Midland, Michigan. This school specializes in business management. Some courses at Capital University and local training when it was made available.

I was certified in several automotive categories. Also I held a Commercial Pilots license with IFR rating and two coast Guard boating certificates.

With a couple of other gasoline dealers in 1962 we started the Central Ohio Gasoline Dealers Association. A charter member, I was the treasurer for several years and I continue to host the annual association reunion at my Buckeye Lake house.

I was asked by a Lion member of Linden to attend a club meeting in October 1969. I was inducted into the club in March 1970 and have had perfect attendance since. I have enjoyed every minute of the 40 years I've been a member. My goal is to have recruited 50 new Lions by the end of 2009-2010 Lions year.

I have enjoyed this beautiful world! I have traveled in every continent, except one. I have assisted many people, both old and young, here and overseas. In my youth I received the King George IV Medal for service to my country.

What more could one ask for?

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The New Albany Lions Club is holding its' annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a. m. at the New Albany Gardens and Care Center, 5691 Thompson Rd. The cost is: \$5 for adults, children under 10, \$2. Children under 5 years of age are free.

## NOVEMBER 10 MEETING

The theme for this meeting was Veteran's Day. Several of the members appeared in their active duty uniforms and the speaker for the evening was SSGT Garry Caldwell, US Army. Sgt Caldwell spoke about the military and veterans.

1<sup>st</sup> V.P. Lion Dave Atkin reported that he and several other members were interested in serving on a committee to look into new fund raising possibilities.

Lion Rob reported that he has been challenged to this date, \$375. This means he adds another \$375 to a fund to provide Ohio School for the Blind Marching Band members with some pocket money to spend during their stay at the Rose Bowl.

## NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

**Membership Chairman:** Ray Empson reported that the Downtown Club Charter Night will be February 6, 2009. Members are encouraged to attend and support the new club.

**Old Business:** Kirk Noce requested that members RSVP for the Christmas Party

by December 1 and give him a count of guests.

**New Business:** Traci Gallant presented a flyer about the Lions In Sight program. All clubs and districts are requested to have some type of public relations or community service event during the last two weeks of January with the goal of making Lions more visible in the community.

Lion Ralph reported on his work with Helping Hands and that 29 requests were made for eyeglasses in July. Eleven were out of the area and 18 received vouchers for glasses.

## NOVEMBER 24 MEETING

The speaker for the evening was 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor Lion Dave Risen. Lion Dave is on his second tour of District Leadership, having served as District Governor previously. He told us why he was on his second tour and spoke of the growth of new clubs in the district. He gave proper credit to Lion Ray.

Reports were given on the District Bowling Tourney and the New Albany Lions Club Breakfast with Santa.

## INTERNATIONAL

Our 45,000 clubs and more than 1.3 million members make us the world's largest service club organization. We recently:

- Brought 3,000 volunteers together to build [a playground for children of all abilities](#) in California, USA.
- Fed 60,000 people in a township in South Africa. It's something Lions do there every day.