

District 2 - X1
www.lions2-x1.org

August 2023
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Insights Unveiled: Exploring the World Within Our Newsletter

The Power of Selfless Service: Building Stronger Communities Together

In a world often dominated by individual pursuits and self-centered ambitions, the concept of selfless service to others stands as a beacon of hope, reminding us of the true essence of humanity. Selfless service is a profound act of compassion, empathy, and altruism that transcends personal gain and directs its focus towards uplifting others. It is the embodiment of the idea that we are all interconnected and that our actions have far-reaching effects on the well-being of those around us.

Selfless service plays a pivotal role in fostering a sense of community and building strong, resilient societies. When individuals dedicate themselves to serving others without expecting anything in return, they create a ripple effect of positive change. Acts of kindness, no matter how small, have the potential to inspire others to follow suit, leading to a collective movement of goodwill and generosity.

Moreover, selfless service helps bridge the gaps that divide us, be it socioeconomic disparities, cultural differences, or ideological divides. By actively engaging in the welfare of others, we cultivate understanding, tolerance, and a sense of unity. It encourages us to look beyond our differences and recognize the common thread of humanity that binds us all. "We Serve."

-Link Editorial Board

2023-2024 District 2-X1 Cabinet Officers

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Prakash's View
DG Prakash Gautam
Plano Collin Nepalese Lions Club



Greetings, fellow Lions!

I would like to thank each one of you who attended the District's First Cabinet Meeting on July 22nd. I am incredibly pleased with the number of Lions and Leos who attended and supported their own District. I appreciate JCH Lions Youth Camp President Lion Karen Murray and her Team for bringing the exchange students who were visiting Texas from several different countries. Their presence made our Cabinet Meeting more glorious. Thank you District Governor Woody Mathews of District 2-E2, Past Council Chair Kayam Uddin of MD325 (Nepal), and Past District Governor Richard Surface of District 2-X3 for joining us as the valued guests.

We also had the District Leo Officers election and installation at the Cabinet Meeting; congratulations to all the elected Leos, Leo President Aayush Kandel of Plano Collin Nepalese Lions Club and Team. I appreciate the District Leo Chair, PCS John Wicker, for his continuing outstanding support to our Leos.

In July I attended the Lions Clubs International Convention in Boston, MA, USA. It was a wonderful experience meeting so many Lions in one place who speak different languages. Walking in the Lions' Parade with Lions around the world was a lifetime memory. I ask all the Lions of our District to invite your close friends to attend one of your meetings or service activities and encourage them to join the club.

Our District is fully committed in supporting LCI President Dr. Patty Hill's Mission 1.5 – increase membership to 1.5M by 2027. I encourage all Zone Chairs and Region Chairs to closely monitor the membership status of all clubs and provide support when needed. Please note that the District Global Action Team, comprising of several highly experienced Lions, is always there to help you in every aspect of membership retention and membership growth.

So far only 32 percent of the clubs in the District have reported their activities (service and other). Several clubs might have missed reporting their service activities in the Lions Portal. Unless clubs report their activities, both service and meetings, their work will not be counted. Please do not miss reporting all service activities in the Lions Portal to get credit for your work.



Prakash's View
DG Prakash Gautam
Plano Collin Nepalese Lions
Club



I would like to request all clubs and individual Lions in our district to donate, even a small amount like \$10 or \$20, to LCIF. When donating online, I suggest mentioning your Lions member number and your club's name so you will get credit for your donation for the Malvin Jones Award.

July was a busy month for me attending clubs' officers' installation and induction ceremonies, attending some service projects done by clubs, attending executive committee meeting, attending MD2 budget meeting, and brainstorming with various persons about establishing new clubs in our District.

Overall July was a successful and joyful month for our District. I wish you all a very pleasant and memorable August 2023.

Best Regards,
Lion Prakash Gautam



Radha's Thoughts

1st VDG Radha Krishna Kaphle

Dallas Everest Lions Club

Greetings, Fellow Lions!

International President Dr. Patti Hill emphasized her message that the significance of small acts of service and their meaningful impact on individuals makes the community better. Her theme of the year is **"Changing the World"** says when Lions and communities unite in their efforts to serve, their collective strength becomes a driving force for positive change. By working together towards common goals, they can address larger issues and have a far-reaching impact, creating lasting improvements in various aspects of society.

Let's inspire each club to contribute through small acts of service. By doing so, we can ignite positive change within our communities and beyond.

On July 22nd, 2022, we had our **first district cabinet meeting**, and it was a great success. The cabinet team duly installed and promised to sincerely support our clubs and district in reaching our goals. We believe that when each club does well, our whole district prospers. Our motto for the year, from **DG Prakash**, is **"Serve and Smile."** This means we're dedicated to serving with joy, and making a positive difference wherever we go. Together, we're moving toward the betterment of our clubs and the districts.

Leo Clubs in the District:

Fellow Club Presidents, Secretaries, and Officers, your leadership and roles are vital in creating a meaningful impact on your clubs by improving their services, fostering membership growth and retention, and ensuring accurate activity reporting. Our district has sponsored both community-based and school-based Leo Clubs (Alpha and Omega). Presently, we have 17 Leo Clubs in our system, but not all of them are active. Only 12 clubs have been consistently active in recent years, and unfortunately, only 2 clubs reported their activities last year. This lack of reporting makes it challenging to assess their activeness and contributions.

Therefore, we sincerely request the Club Presidents, Secretaries, and Leo Club Advisors to stay involved in your clubs' activities and guide the Leo Clubs team in fulfilling their goals while ensuring regular reporting. If you need any support from the district, District Leo Coordinator John Wicker, the Region Chairs, Zone Chairs, and the DG team are always here to assist you.

Let's collaborate to identify the active Leo Clubs, revitalize their spirit, and encourage them to fulfill their activities. Together, we can strengthen the impact of our combined efforts and bring about positive change in our communities.

Participation:

During July 2023, I was involved in the various lions' activities such as Executive Committee (DG Team) meeting, 1st Cabinet meeting, District Charities Board meeting, Plano Collin Nepalese LC's installation and induction ceremony, Dallas Everest (my home club) cleanup-environmental service project, MD2 GMA roundtable session, and some other activities.



Radha's Thoughts

1st VDG Radha Krishna Kaphle

Dallas Everest Lions Club

Major upcoming events/dates:

On August 03-05, 2023 – I plan to attend at 1st Council of Governors Meeting- in Kerrville, TX

Club Leaders: **August 31 is the due date for the payment of semi-annual dues (LCI & District)**

Together, let us renew our dedication to serving our communities and strengthening our Lions family.

In-Service,
1VDG Radha K. Kaphle
Dallas Everest
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Pamela's Pulse



2nd VDG Lion Pamela Baker

Wylie Evening Lions Club

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Special Greetings to all of the 2-X1 Lions!

This past month we had a great 1st District 2-X1 Cabinet Meeting. Many clubs attended and the following special activities were conducted: Officers Installation, District Awards, District Leos, Julian C. Hyer Youth Camp Students, District Goals, and Lions Clubs International Foundation Presentations. Thank you to all who came and to our hosts West Region Chair Manuel Palavicini and team.

Happy August! This month I would like to celebrate and acknowledge the LEOs. Not just people born in this month like me but also our District 2-X1 LEOs (Leadership, Experience, Opportunity), our clubs' youngest members. LEOs are dedicated to action. LEOs are considered natural leaders and enjoy friendships. Our LEOs have several opportunities for leadership. In July, the LEOs of District 2-X1 came together and elected officers. We are excited for this year and congratulate our LEO officers.

What is COG? This month I will be attending a meeting in Kerrville, TX. I will meet with the other state 2VDGs. The District Governors of the 16 districts in Texas is known as the Council of Governors (COG). They meet at least four times a year to conduct the business of Texas Lions at the Multiple District level.

Mark Your Calendar:

August 16, 2023 Executive Council Meeting

Executive Council Purpose

To bring club officers together to act as a coordinating council, and to create opportunities for the exchange of ideas between the Clubs in the promotion of Lionism. These meetings are intended as a platform for club Presidents, Secretaries and club Membership/Service/Leadership Chairs to share club information and learn about and discuss issues important to their club.



Pamela's Pulse

2nd VDG Lion Pamela Baker

Wylie Evening Lions Club

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Remember our theme: We Serve and We Smile

This year's most important goal is membership growth. 2023-2024-The 2VDG will support the district goals with information, training, and support. Major goals for the year 2023-2024:

1. Charter at least two new Clubs.
2. Increase Lion members by at least 50 members.
3. Increase individual participation to LCIF donation by twenty-five percent and Club participation by ten percent.
4. Exceed eighty percent (49 Clubs) of Club reporting in Lions Portal.
5. Serve at least 190,000 people.
6. Ensure ninety percent of the Zone Chairs and 55 percent of the club officers are trained.

GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP APPROACH GMA

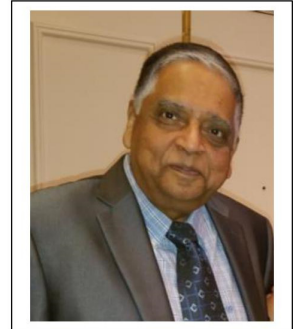
District 2-X1, July 29, 2023

We are on a journey to more service!

District 2-X1 is participating in Global Membership Approach to maximize our membership thereby maximizing our service to the community.

District 2-X1 Goals: Following are the district goals:

- Charter 2 new clubs
- Recruit 330 new members
- Drops to be below 280
- Net membership gain 50
- Serve 190,000 needy people in our community



How are we doing ?

2-X1 Membership Status: (July 30, 2023)

	This Month	This Year
Opening Balance	1758	1758
Added members.....	37	37
Dropped Members.....	14	14
NetGain/Loss	23	23
Closing Balance.....	1781	1781

MD-2 Membership Status

Added members.....	275
Dropped Members...	244
Closing Balance.....	21,668
Net Gain/Loss.....	31

2-X1 goals for this year, is to recruit 330 new members with the drops limited to 280 for a net membership increase of 50. These are achievable goals We have a good start with a net growth of 23 for the first month. Let us keep the positive momentum going. As we learnt from last year, the key to growth is member retention. All clubs are urged to have a retention strategy. If you are losing members after less than three years of becoming a Lion, focus on proper induction, new member orientation, assign a mentor, keep them engaged and flexible meeting. For senior members increase their responsibilities, both in club and the district.

GMA focus this year will be on clubs, so they will embrace the GMA process. The 4 step process is simple. I have developed a one page form that can be used to do the process, which should not take more than 1-2 hours. I will pass these on to zone chairs, so they can pass these to club presidents. Please use this useful tool, to better understand your club and how to recruit and retain new members.

Service: In the first month 2-X1 has served over 21,088 people with 138 service activities

Leadership Training: Club officers training was already held in June, including Zone Chairs and LCIF.

I missed our first cabinet meeting since I was a guest speaker at 2-T3 cabinet meeting on the same day.

PDG Vinod Mathur, 2-X1 and MD-2 GMA Champion



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Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

LCIF FOUNDATION UPDATE

CONGRATULATIONS to IPDG Fred Conger for very good LCIF year. As of this writing, District 2X1, along with 36 clubs and 34 individuals, has donated a little over **\$62,000** to LCIF. The mission of LCIF is to strengthen and support the services and capabilities of Lions clubs and districts. District 2X1 has received approximately **\$100,000** in grants from LCIF in the 2022-2023 Lion year. The two most significant grants are:

- **\$21,825** for the build-a-bed project championed by PDG's John Landrum and John Eads. This project was in conjunction with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build 350 beds for children without beds to sleep in. 175 of those beds have been built and delivered to the Texas Lions Camp in time for this year's campers. The next build date will be on September 9, 2023 in Waxahachie. More details will be forthcoming.
- **\$75,000** for Mabank Lions Club to provide the "Faith at Work Ministries" with a new refrigerated truck to assist them with their weekly food distribution.

As you can see, we get back more than we receive, and that allows us to take on much larger projects within our communities.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? LCIF is transitioning to a Sustained Giving Program which will include a legacy giving program called "Your Lions Legacy". Contact me for more information.

Our district goal, in general is to increase individual and club giving and to have more clubs with 100% individual contributions. The exact goals are currently being finalized and will be presented in the cabinet meeting this month.

TRAINING: LCIF Coordinator training was conducted on June 17th. If you missed it, there will be additional training at upcoming district events. Also, the PowerPoint presentation is available on the district website.

CLUB PROGRAMS: To learn more, contact me to schedule a presentation at one of your club meetings. I look forward to meeting my fellow Lions to discuss LCIF.

DONATIONS: Donations can be made through the LCIF website by utilizing the QR Code below.

LCIF is proud to allocate 100% of your donation to life-changing grants and programs.





Fred's Findings
IPDG Fred Conger
Coppell Lions Club



fred.conger@verizon.net

District Governor Prakash is off to a great start! We are up 23 members as of July 28th. Congratulations!

I heard that the cabinet Meeting went very well. I hated to miss but had come down with a case of Covid the day before. Not sure where I picked it up but there was no mistaking the positive reading on the home test kit. I was to give out some remaining awards but will hold them for the October Cabinet Meeting.

I am looking forward to seeing Lion friends in Kerrville this coming weekend. And meeting our new International President Dr. Patti Hill. I am sure she will deliver an exciting and motivating speech at the PDG Banquet.

Boston was a great location for the LCI Convention. Judy and I were able to attend some of the convention but missed much of it as she became ill and spent two days at Tufts Medical Center and another day resting. However, we were able to see some sites and attend the new Indiana Jones movie. I most hated missing the parade of nations.

I did consume a lot of seafood as a "Legal Seafood Restaurant" was just across the street from our hotel. Their motto is "If it isn't fresh, it isn't Legal."

Big News! The Lion provided Metrocrest Service Center mobile food pantry truck is here and will be christened August 12th. It will go into service and provide food to hungry families directly to their communities. Special thanks to the several Lions clubs that financed the funds to receive the LCIF matching grant for this endeavor.

On a similar note, local clubs should consider inviting representatives of the new Dallas Health Lions Club's Mobile Medical Unit to present a program to their club members. Then plan to support this awesome project with financial support within their means to help keep it running and expand its service.

Last Chance! If you are submitting the 2022-2023 Club Excellence Award application to me (available on the district's web site lionsdistrict2x1.org) you need to have had your President, Secretary and Treasurer attend Lion Officer Training at either Lions University in June 2022, Mid-Winter Conference in Jan. 2023, or have completed the LCI respective officer training on the LEARN application or reviewed the appropriate officer position e-book information and notified me of that fact.

Also, your club or an individual in your club must have contributed to Lions Clubs International's Foundation for the Lion year. You are automatically disqualified from LCI's Club Excellence award without a contribution no matter how small or large.



Fred's Findings ***IPDG Fred Conger*** ***Coppell Lions Club***



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Clubs don't forget to report your meetings, fundraiser events, service projects and donations on MyLION each month. Fifty-four of our clubs (**88.5%**) reported something on MyLION in 2022-2023. We had the best percentage of the 16 districts in Texas. But EVERY club should report something in all four categories unless they are totally inactive. **If you don't know how, CALL ME!**

As I stated last month, the major reason we lose members is that we don't keep in touch with them and do not build **RELATIONSHIPS** among our members. Relationships are the number one of the top 10 motivators as to why people join and stay with an organization. Without that personal friendly connection and the feeling of belonging, members drift away. *"The lesson here is to keep your club members involved and having fun together doing service and activities that they enjoy."* Make sure your Lions know each other and become a Lion family of friends. In other words, Mentor your Lions, old and new.

Don't let members be forgotten if they start to miss club events. Personally contact them and make sure they feel needed and know that they are an important part of your club.

Club leaders, lead your clubs and keep your members happy with service, fun social events, interesting programs, and Lion family comradery. It is your responsibility to grow your club's membership, develop new club leaders, grow your service to your community, and support your Association and International Foundation.

The new and improved member interface application "**Lion Portal**" will be operational shortly. All clubs should update and verify their members and club information on MyLCI. The new Portal should make access to club and member information simpler to obtain and easier to maintain. All Lions will find this new portal useful where the current applications are focused on assisting club and district officers. In addition, all club officers and Lions are being asked to have a unique email address so LCI can provide information tailored to every Lion's position. Sharing email addresses for multiple club positions will be a problem.

Lions of District 2-X1. Keep serving others, touching people's lives, being a force for good, and making the world a better place.

LCI Mission Statement.

"To empower Lions clubs, volunteers, and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding."

" Together We Can! & Together We Will!"

JULIEN C. HYER LIONS YOUTH CAMP

“from the beginning as I remember”

by

PCC John Eads, District 2-X1

President 1976-77

The Julien C. Hyer Lions Youth Camp was the brain child of PDG Surry Shaffer, Jr., District 2-X1, founder of the Camp. As I recall, in late summer of 1973 a few of us Lions were asked to join Surry at his house on Byrn Marr in Dallas to discuss the formation of the Camp. Those Lions were F. Hall Brown, David Fagg, a non-Lion Jay Seaborn, a close business friend of Surry's who helped us with insurance on the Camp, John Hall, Otis Pharr and John Eads. There may have been others present, but the memory has faded.

I do remember distinctly that the meeting was around 4 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon and it lasted forever (always did if Surry was around). Before the evening was over, we had basically formed the Camp. David Fagg, an attorney, was to complete the application into the Secretary of State of Texas to form the non-profit entity with the by-laws to follow. The entity was formed on April 22, 1974 after many planning sessions. The Camp was patterned after the Youth Exchange Program of Lions Clubs International, except our Camp would take campers sponsored from Lions Clubs and not be required to send one of our youth back to the sponsoring Lions Club in their geographical area. As agreed at the meeting, Surry was going to be the first President of the Camp, F. Hall Brown, Secretary, and yours truly, Treasurer. At that time, other officer positions had not been solidified. Sometime later in early 1974, the respective Governors of both Districts, Odis Pharr 2-X1 and Albert Brown, 2-E2 became Vice-Presidents.

PDG Surry Shaffer, Jr. was responsible for this whole idea of having a youth camp. He garnered the idea from being one of the most influential Lions in the success of the Youth Exchange Program for Lions Clubs International. He had been Youth Exchange Chairman for District 2-X1 and MD-2 for many years and pretty much ran the program for LCI. During this time he was able to create and maintain many international relationships from Lions all over the world that were involved in the youth exchange program. These contacts later became instrumental Lions in the successes enjoyed by the Camp by providing youth sponsored by Lions Clubs from their geographical area

How did we obtain the name “*Julien C. Hyer Lions Youth Camp?*” I had been told many times by Surry that he tricked the Judge (Judge Julien C. Hyer, President of LCI 1931-32 and founder of Lions Clubs International Youth Exchange Program). He had many meetings about the Camp idea with Judge Hyer. The Judge supported the idea, but when Surry suggested it be named after him, he was not for it. Finally, Surry got up enough courage to tell him it had already been done. The name would be the Julien C. Hyer Lions Youth Camp. Surry told me that he wanted to honor his friend and that in recognition of his love and respect for the Judge and the principles he stood for, he named the Camp after him in spite of the Judge’s request that he not do so. Surry told me later that even though it was hard for the Judge to forgive him for his “trickery,” he was proud and honored to be a part of the Camp.

When we first set up the Camp, we had not involved any other Lions that were not volunteers from District 2-X1. However, at the first camping session Lions from District 2-E2 volunteered to assist us since they were from the geographical area around the Methodist Church camping area. I give a lot of credit to Bill Hudson for getting them involved. They were close to the action and their volunteer coordinator was PDG Earl Duckworth, who lived in nearby Sherman, Texas. Some of them had sheets washed, assisted in the recreation events, etc. The first camping session was July 7 – August 22, 1974. It was held at the Methodist Church Camp at Lake Texoma, just outside of Pottsboro, Texas. Later, we had a formal meeting with District 2-E2 representatives that included John Hall, PDG Earl Duckworth, PDG Albert Brown, PDG Bill Hudson and others to formalize the relationship and ask them to join in our efforts at the Camp. This resulted in the Camp being sponsored by both Districts in subsequent years.

Years 1973 through 1975, the President was Surry Shaffer, Jr. (Founder of the Julien C. Hyer Lions Youth Camp). His officers were First Vice-President David Fagg, Second Vice-President Albert Brown, Third Vice-President Odis Pharr, Secretary Hall Brown and Treasurer John Eads. All of these Lions were also the Directors in those years. Earl Duckworth became the second President in the year 1975-76. John Eads became the third President in the year 1976-77 and Jack Harris the fourth President in 1977-78. Directors in 1975-1976 came from both Districts. They included Hall Brown, John Eads, Odis Pharr, Jim Bob Wilson from District 2-X1 and John Hall, Clifton Ramsey, Wayne Teague, Charles Wilson, John Deck, John Seelig and Bill Hudson from District 2-E2.

A formal dedication of the Julien C. Hyer Lions Youth Camp was held at the first camping session in July 1974 at the Methodist Camp site. Surry Shaffer, Jr. presided. Lunch was served by the Campers. Present also were PID (1971-73 Colorado) Phil Sterker, ID Bill Chandler (Alabama District 34) and ID Don Buckalew (Texas MD-2). Our special guest was Mrs. Hal B. Wallis (Martha Hyer), daughter of Judge Hyer. She accepted the dedication proclamation in the name of her father. Also present were State Youth Exchange Chairmen James Johnson (MD-2), Vernon Beebe (MD-3) and Hobert Large, (District 40). Heinz Frohmayer, Youth Director, was also present.

The host Districts for the first camping session were District 2-X1, Governor Sylvan Moritz and District 2-E2, Governor John Seelig. Countries represented were Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Sweden, and the U.S.A. states of Colorado, Alabama, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. There were 34 youth involved in the first camping session.

The Camp offers a camping experience for boy and girl youths between 17 and 21 years of age. The purpose of the Camp is to recognize the Youths of Today as Leaders and Lions of Tomorrow. Youths will come together from all parts of the world under the banners of Lionism in the spirit of friendship, having an opportunity to develop a better understanding of people and their national differences by actual camping and traveling experiences. After a beginning camp week at Methodist Camp, the first few years involved supervised tours that took place for approximately three weeks duration with youths being hosted in homes of Lions and their families across Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and Oklahoma. Tours were later confined to Texas. After the tours, the youths were hosted in the homes of Lions and families in the respective host Districts. It was the hope of the Camp that the spirit of Lionism would be radiated all the way as youths experienced and observed differences in American home life.

The Camp continues today some forty-one years later after having served approximately 1,500 youth from around the world. Hopefully, through the extension of Lionism and this camping experience, we have made our World a better place. Our youth are our future.

Lions District 2-X1 Build Beds for Kids Day!

Date: Saturday, September 9, 2023

Time: flexible - 9 am to 5 pm. You chose your time.

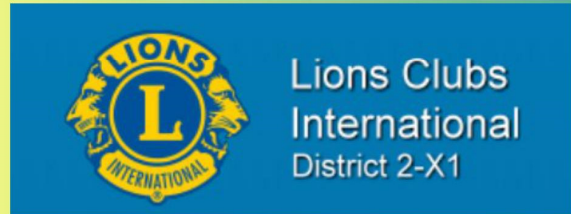
Location : Lions Park, 2303 Howard Rd. (FM877), Waxahachie, TX 75165.



A joint project of:



&



District 2-X1 Lions, Lions from other Districts and non-Lion volunteers will build 175 beds benefiting SHP.

We need volunteers for Build Beds for Kids Day!

- All materials/tools will be provided.
- No special skills are needed, there is a job for everyone.
- You do not have to volunteer for the entire day; if you can give an hour or two that would be great and appreciated.
- We will have an orientation before work begins and you will have experienced leadership on the project from SHP representatives.
- Food and drinks will be provided for you.
- Parking is easy, lots of space.
- Please wear your Lions vest so we can see all the Club volunteers represented. This service event will be filmed, and pictures will be taken.
- This is a Lions Service Project, so keep up with your hours of service and report it to your Club Secretary.



**THANKS, LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON
THE BUILD DAY!**

**For more information and
if you would like to DONATE, please contact:**

PCC John Eads, Tel 214-384-9933
PCC John Landrum, Tel 214-403-8894

Benefitting:

Sleep in Heavenly Peace
for Children without a bed in the
DFW Metroplex

Stories from the past...a Lion's Lion
By PCC John Eads, Volume I, No. 1

When I think of one of the Lions I have had the privilege of serving with that I hold in high regard and know first-hand of his dedication to his country and to his fellow man, I think of PDG Surry Shaffer. I know many of you have experienced the gregarious nature of Surry or had unusual experiences in dealing with him in Lionism over the years. But Surry is Surry, and he was somewhat hyper (most of the time) or maybe I should say over enthusiastic. But it was his passion about being a Lion that drove him, along with his love for life and his insatiable desire to help people, especially youth. He spent many years doing so and enjoyed every moment of it. He still is an active Lion when he is able. I don't think he ever met a stranger. I might add, and I have personally experienced these attributes throughout our lifetime friendship, that Surry, as a man, a Mason and a Lion, has integrity and honesty above reproach.

Some things you may not know personally about this Lion. Whether you knew it or not, he fought for your freedom when most of you were young or maybe not even born yet. He was young then, about 19 years of age, in the United States 7th Army, 45th Infantry Division and fought in WWII, more specifically, in the, one of the fiercest battles in the war against the Germans at Alsace-Lorraine in the Moselle Valley. They fought against two SS Divisions. He was a BAR operator. (Life expectancy for a BAR operator was 8 minutes once the weapon was fired due to the flash out of the muzzle. Surry almost froze to death in that battle in -32-degree weather and was thankful that one of his buddies Shriver (later they found each other in Plano) rescued him before he succumbed to the cold. He was one of three survivors with Shriver. He was shot in the chest. He now suffers greatly from bad circulation in his legs from frost bite, breathing, dying nerves and is wheelchair bound most of the time. His body may be down, but his spirit is very much alive. His is still a Lion's Lion. Many of you may not know that he is the honored recipient of Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantry Badge and many other recognitions. Surprising thing...he never talked about this much.

Please see the attached picture of his recent trip on the Honor Flight for World War II veterans to see the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C... He said it was almost the longest day of his life, except for possibly the days in combat I surmised, and one of the most memorable ones in a good while, when I talked to him recently by telephone. He now lives in Hot Springs, Arkansas with his lovely wife Dori in an assisted living facility.

Surry did some significant things in District 2-X1 while serving as a Lion. I am not talking about his being District Governor in 1976-77. I am talking about what he did in Lionism for the youth. He told me the reason he was so involved with the youth in Lionism was due to his being rescued at age 19. He was very instrumental in Texas and throughout the world of Lionism in developing Youth Exchange.

As a result of being Youth Exchange Chairman in various capacities for the District, MD-2 Texas and Internationally, he put Youth Exchange on the map internationally. He made many contacts with Lions from all over the world and many youth. I can remember the 68th International Convention held in Dallas where he got the University Park police department to block off two blocks that included his home on Bryn Marr for an international party. He talked all of his neighbors into helping him and Dori to host many International Lion dignitaries and those whom he had touched in some way through Youth Exchange. *What a two-block party!!* Joanna and I were fortunate enough to have attended and we were amazed at the mass of people from all over the world and the super hospitality of all the neighbors. Everyone would start at Surry and Dori's home and then go to each neighbor's home to be welcomed, fed and nourished with some kind of *drink*.

But that is not all. Since Surry had all these international Lion contacts, including Past Presidents of Lions Clubs International, he decided it was time for the youth to have a camping experience and be blended into and educated about our culture and in turn, the visiting youth would exchange and present part of their culture. After several years and some knock-down-drag-out conversations with International Past President Judge Julien C. Hyer, Surry founded the Julien C. Hyer Lions Youth Camp in 1973. He said he hood-winked the Judge into naming the Camp after him as I recall. The Camp was formed in 1973-74 with Surry as the first President. PDG Hall Brown and I were two of the first five Founding Directors. Hall served as Secretary, and I served as Treasurer. The dedication ceremony of the Camp was held at the Methodist Youth Camp in Pottsboro, Texas with the guest speaker being Judge Hyer's daughter, Martha Hyer, the Actress. The first Camp was held there also. We enlisted the help of the Sherman and Dennison Lions Clubs to help us at the Camp. As a result, PDG Earl Duckworth of 2-E2 became the second President and yours truly was honored to be the third President of the Camp. The Camp is in session today, as this story is being written. But there is more on this subject later in another "stories from the past" article.

Among other things, Surry, while Governor, started Gavel Travel, which is still being continued today through Club visitation to other Clubs.

Surry, thanks for your friendship and the many good times we have had serving together as Lions. If I did not get the story exactly right, remember, it is your fault. Most of all, ***thank you, Surry, from all of us Lions for your sacrifice and service to us all!***

Stay tuned for more of these short stories from the past...

Diversity and Changing the World

Lion Nia MacKay

Every culture, every nationality, every single person sees the world in a different way. Likewise, everyone has different knowledge, perspectives, and points of view. When all of these different views are shared together miracles can happen.

A diverse environment provides multiple paths for personal development. Being more aware of other cultures can eliminate previously held stereotypes and allow people to be seen as people. Diversity and inclusion create productivity as the ability to learn and grow from each other is exponential. Diversity creates an environment which fosters creativity and helps bring together different perspectives, ideas, and voices that can create a unique opinion, output, and/or strategy. Diversity promotes critical thinking, and makes us better, stronger, and more successful in everything we do as individuals or as community.

The 2023-2024 LCI Presidential Theme is “Changing The World.” Changing the world is a journey that takes courage, and it starts with us. Our world, country, workplace and school consist of diverse groups and the Lions and Leos are a reflection of that reality. We are changing the world one life, one community at a time. Be the change, be the key.

Sources:

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/discover-our-clubs/presidential-theme>

<https://www.partnershipinternational.ie/why-is-cultural-diversity-important/>

<https://www.steps4change.org/why-is-diversity-so-important/#:~:text=1>

DG Prakash Gautam installed officers of Dallas North Indo Centennial Lions Club, Alpha Leo Club, and Omega Leo club. Thank you, Dallas North Indo Centennial Team, for your commendable service!



“Ferris Lions Club just made a splash in their service to their community on Saturday, July 29, 2023. It is a great example of Lions service. The LSTF bus was there and they screened 24, ran 17 through the bus, and had 6 referrals. Ferris Lions Club sold popcorn as a fundraiser and made \$199. This was a Back to School Festival for the Ferris Independent School District. The School District pulled in about 1,800 to 2,000 parents and students District wide all grades to the Highschool for the event.

Thank you Governor Prakash and other District leadership for attending. It means a lot to the Clubs! Thanks to all Lion volunteers. Last, but certainly not the least, thanks to the LSTF volunteers for getting the bus to the event and making the eye exams.”

This Club was one of the Clubs that was rebuilt in 2021-22. What a success story. Thanks to Lions Jim Swafford and Kay Huff.

Article by: PCC John Eads and PCC John Landrum



Impact of DAWN Project on Health, Wellness & Welfare in our Communities

By: Lion Gloria Mathur, District 2X1 Chair of Diabetes Awareness
DAWN Project Coordinator

The DAWN project (Diabetes Screening & Community Wellness) was again requested to participate with Baylor Scott & White Health & Wellness Center at the Community Men's Health Expo event , last Saturday, June 24th. Representing the Lions DAWN project were PDG Vinod Mathur, Lion Gloria Mathur of the Dallas Filipino LC, and Lion Dub Guthrie of the Duncanville LC.

The event was hosted by the City of Dallas & RMT Cancer Network, to raise public awareness and celebrate men's health. It was held at the Hiawatha Recreation Center in Dallas from 10am- 3p.m., with over 300 people in attendance. The DAWN project was able to provide Diabetes Screenings together with BSWHWC.

Lions & DAWN project continues to gain visibility & credibility throughout our communities in the District. We are ***seen, heard and recognized of what we do.*** WE are making impact on health, wellness and welfare in our communities



Volunteers Added Impact to DAWN Project

By: Lion Gloria Mathur – DAWN Project Coordinator, District 2X1 & MD-2 Chair of Diabetes Awareness & Action

“Nothing liberates our greatness like the desire to help, the desire to serve.”

- Marianne Williamson

Often, when we think about volunteering, there are many considerations that drive our decision to accept an opportunity. The motives that drive the desire to volunteer may include gaining career-related experience, enhancing our self-esteem, learning more about life, improving our outlook on life, acting on our values, strengthening our social ties, and **most importantly help & service to others**. One of this is the DAWN project, (Diabetes, AWARENESS & Wellness Now).

BIG Thank You to all the volunteers from all the participating clubs of DAWN project which continues to be successful and meeting our goal. Completion of this project is Dec. 2023. At the event last July 15th we continue our mission of providing Community Wellness, Diabetes Screening , & vision screening to 77 people in the Irving community & surrounding areas. Volunteers from participating clubs assigned for this date and some other Lions clubs, help and support, is one of the reason we were able to fulfill our commitments to the community. Features on the DAWN project include A1c, and Kidney Function test, Vascular test (Blood Pressure check, BMI,), Cholesterol & vision screening. Free bags of fresh veggies & fruits were processed, put in bags and distributed to all people being screened. The role of the volunteers include, manning the registration desk, assist people to fill the form, assist in vision screening, processing , packing in bags, & distributing fresh farm produce , and assisting the Baylor staff doing the testing if needed.

We had success stories as a result of the Diabetes screenings from those that came who had follow up screening done..

Lions & the DAWN project continues to gain visibility & credibility throughout our communities in the District. ***We are seen, heard and recognized of what we do and can do.***

We are making impact and making a difference in our communities on their health and wellbeing. Volunteers thank you for your dedication, help & support for DAWN project .



Esmeralda's Express News

PDG Esmeralda Rodriguez

Grand Prairie Host Lions Cub

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Our membership goal is +184 members:
 62 clubs x 2 members each = 124
 2 new clubs= 60 charter members

First, we need to ensure all club officers and members are provided our district support and training as needed. One goal is to provide training at the club level on Global Membership Approach Process. Please call or email me asap to set up a 10-15 minute club presentation on Global Membership Approach Process and for support with membership recruitment and retention. Please remember our district team has many supportive team members aside from your region and zone chairs available to you and your club. GET chair Wayne Meachum is able to help with establishing new clubs in a community. He is a great resource for your club when you are ready to sponsor and charter a new club or club branch. Specialty Club Coordinator Chair Thala Raj Panta is a great resource for your club when you are ready to sponsor and charter a new specialty club. Service Chair Virginia Lamb is a great resource for training regarding service. Leadership Chair IPDG Fred Conger is a great support for training for your secretaries, treasurers, officers.

Second, we are off to a great start with membership! Way to go lions! Congratulations to DG Prakash Gautham for 23 net growth members in July and already submitting a new club application that is pending approval. Big Kudos to the Dallas Founders Club that received the 2x1 Membership Traveling Trophy at our kickoff 2023 First July Cabinet Meeting. This club was down to a couple of members and ready to give up charter, however they are 48+ members and growing! Woohoo President Keith Murray, PCC Joseph Montag, Zone Chair Nia MacKay and fellow club members for the amazing growth and service your club is doing! Membership Chair Carol Donovan is doing an outstanding job with recruitment! Great job IPDG Fred Conger for spearheading the Allen Community lions club. ! Big thanks to PCC John Eads and team for continuing to help our district on rebuilding small clubs. Way to go Lion Thala Raj Panta on another new specialty club that is pending approval. Super proud of GP Host Lions Family Club Branch on their way to fly independently this coming January to become their own charter club. Let's Go, Let's Grow!

Great job to the following clubs that added members in July:

Allen Community-1; Commerce-1, Dallas Bangladeshi-6; Dallas Indian-1; Dallas North Indo-1; Dallas White Rock-1; Irving Everest Centennial-2; Irving Noon Day-2; Kaufman -1; Lancaster New Centennial-3; Mabank

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Cedar Creek Area-3; Maypearl-2; Plano Collin Nepalese-11; Wylie Evening-1
Let's Go, Let's Grow!

Third, we know our district can easily exceed our membership goals working together. However, we also need to retain all current members or replace any members we lose this coming year with additional members. We need to continue to focus on retention by connecting with all our lion club members. We know several of our lions are currently facing daily challenges and struggles, however, it sure does help when our clubs have a sunshine chair or similar position and/or mentors assigned to help check on members that do not make it to a meeting or service project. It can be done via phone, send a card or call in person. This truly makes a difference and shows a member that each of them is a valuable club/district member!

Fourth, remember how important it is for your club to be doing service and focusing on Lions International global causes. Collaboration with community partners; quality versus quantity; fellowship and fun; meeting a need in the community; variety of times/locations and family friendly are main keys to success. These are our global causes:



**CHILDHOOD
CANCER**



DIABETES



**DISASTER
RELIEF**



ENVIRONMENT



**HUMANITARIAN
EFFORTS**



HUNGER



VISION



YOUTH

Comedy



Corner!

How does NASA organize a company party? They planet.

If you have an item for the *Lions Link*, please email it to:

biu101@yahoo.com

**no later than 20th of the month
inclusion in the next edition!**

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

**Visit Lions Clubs
International online @**

lionsclubs.org

texaslions.org

www.lions2-x1.org



Lions Code of Ethics

TO SHOW my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.

TO SEEK success and demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.

TO REMEMBER that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.

WHENEVER a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards others, to resolve such doubt against myself.

TO HOLD friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.

ALWAYS to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state and my community, and to give them my unswerving loyalty in word, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor and means.

TO AID others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, my substance to the needy.

TO BE CAREFUL with my criticism and liberal with my praise, to build up and not destroy.