



LIONS OF TEXAS

MD-2 NEWS



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FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN



Lions of Texas,

As this year comes to a close, I want to extend a warm "Thank You" for shining our Beacon of Hope to others in so many ways. All the varied service projects done by Lions through your districts and clubs serve to bring so much comfort and hope to those in need. And the camaraderie among you and your fellow Lions is evident to others.

Service projects in your local communities not only benefit the receivers but also allow us Lions, as the givers, to experience the rewards of service. And when our Beacon of Hope shines forth, others of good will want to join us. Our International President, Sid Scruggs, says this is our "secret weapon" to gaining and retaining membership. Remember the Lions motto...."We Serve."

With the holiday season upon us, Dayle and I would like to wish all the Lions of Texas good health and happiness and may you have peace in your hearts.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

*Council Chairman L.E. Stump
Weatherford and Dayle*



*A very Merry
Christmas and a
happy and healthy
New Year to you
and yours from the
MD-2 Council of
Governors*

SERVING TOGETHER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Celebrate the Spirit of Service

I became a Lion because I wanted to serve. The longer I am a Lion the more I realize that the Lions have tapped into something very special and profound. For many centuries people in all parts of the world and among different cultures and religious traditions have grasped the importance of serving others. Gandhi said, "I shall pass through this world but once. Any good that I do or any kindness that I show to any human being let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again." Mohammed said, "A person's true wealth is the good he or she does in the world." Sir Wilfred T. Greenfell said, "The purpose of this world is not 'to have and to hold' but 'to give and to serve.' There can be no other meaning."

We are in the season of giving, and in this issue we celebrate the spirit of service. As Lions we give our gift of service throughout the year. We care and we share. Our spirit of giving unites us and enables us to be Beacons of Hope for those most in need and those who may be otherwise neglected. Our spirit of service is powerful and self-sustaining, and because we don't act alone but combine our energies, ideas and resources, we are a mighty force for good.

Judy and I wish each of you the very best during this holiday season. While gathering with family and friends, and counting your many blessings, remember, being a Lion is surely a blessing to someone else.

As the New Year approaches, let your spirit of service continue to shine a Beacon of Hope on your community and the world.



Sid L. Scruggs III
Lions Clubs International President



TLERC: CHRISTMAS, A TIME OF GIVING

Christmas is the ultimate time of giving: Giving presents, giving help to the needy, or giving ourselves in service..... And what better gift could a “Knight of the Blind” give than the **Gift of Sight**? Through Sight First, the Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center & the Lions of Texas give the gift of sight in many ways, but the most obvious and simplest way is to give someone a pair of glasses. A gift of glasses can change a person’s life.

Last month we discussed what happens to the “gifts” of glasses you send to TLERC in order to get ready to give them to those in need. This month we want to give you some ideas (that other Clubs have used & still use successfully) to collect used glasses. If your Club is not sending used glasses to **TLERC (2550 Flynt, Midland, Texas 79701)**, maybe one of these ideas will get you started:

1) Decorate a large trash can or metal drum for used glasses, and always have it at your fund raising events, like pancake dinners, etc. Over time people will learn to expect it & will bring their used glasses to your event.

2) With permission of course, set out small collection boxes at local retailers. Especially productive are pharmacies, eye doctor or optical shops, funeral homes, Church offices or vestibules, & local hospitals. Look for places (like grocery stores) where people go repeatedly. Once they spot the box over time, they

will eventually remember to dig those old pairs out of the nightstand. Remember to run your route regularly, since retailers do not want overflowing boxes that

make their store look messy. Many clubs make their own wooden boxes, and cardboard boxes with graphics can be found through Lions International. **Oh by the way, if the managers of these retailers are not members, this is the time to ASK them to become a LION!**

3) Funeral homes may not be willing to put out a box, but if you talk directly to the Funeral Director, they may be willing to delicately ask the family for the deceased’s eyeglasses. It is comforting to know that their loved one can help another person even after death. **Oh by the way, if the Funeral Director is not a Lion, you got it –ask him or her to join!**

4) Find or make a weather protected container. Paint it Lions’ colors and paint on some graphics. If you have a clubhouse, put one out in front of it. Also, you might find a mall or strip shopping center that would allow you to place it on the corner of the parking lot. Look for the malls that already allow collection boxes (like Goodwill). Again make sure you run your route regularly, so they don’t overflow or become trashy.



5) If you still have a door to door project like selling brooms, light bulbs, poinsettias, etc., then make it part of the pitch at every home to ask for used glasses. In fact, one club I’ve heard of, makes it their project just to go door to door to collect used glasses - they aren’t selling anything. **Oh by the way, if the person at the door isn’t in their Club, they invite them to a meeting!**

These are just a few easy ideas to get you started, and once you get into collecting, contact TLERC, so we can provide you training to go the next step (the “first sort” discussed in detail last month) for TLERC. This saves us time and you money, because it reduces the shipping weight. Maybe then you will progress to the next step. Through TLERC we can train your Club (or District) how to use a lensometer to read the prescriptions of the glasses you collected, then to sanitize and bag them. Learning these basics about prescriptions is the beginning of what you need to know to set up an adult eye clinic.

Lion Tom Blase

SVDG, A1

TLERC Promotions Director

SECOND COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

The second Council of Governors meeting was held on November 5th and 6th in Corpus Christi. The Governors, Vice District Governors and Second Vice District Governors attended meetings and workshops from the time they arrived on Friday late into the evening. Council Chairman L.E. "Stump" Wetherford convened the meeting at 8:30 Saturday, and the meeting continued well into the afternoon.

MD-2 Chairpersons gave their reports as the Governors and Governor Elects listened intently. Among the items discussed were the news that MD-2 now has 412 members in 21 Campus Clubs throughout the state. Attendees were also reminded that November 14 was American Diabetes Day, and that December 1st was the deadline for the State Peace Poster Contest, and postmarks were required by or on that date.

Another wonderful item was brought to the Council, that this summer from the 17th to the 23rd of July the Texas Lions Camp for children will launch it's pilot program for campers with Down Syndrome. If you have any questions about eligibility of a child, please contact the Texas Lions Camp for details. There will only be facilities for 75 campers, so the time to act is now!

The newest Ivy Green was introduced by Lion Sandy Griffin. Ivy is just 4 months and 1 week old, 1/2 Golden Retriever and 1/2 Labrador Retriever; and she's off to a good start!

2-A2 District Governor presented this editor with a

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SECOND COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

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beautiful map of MD-2 with the pins of each Governor representing their respective Districts as a thank you for helping with designing pins over the years.

It was a busy, productive meeting with only one drawback; with so much business and so many meetings, it

left the Council of Governors with very little time to enjoy the beautiful scenery of Corpus Christi.

For those of you who have never attended one of these events, it is a learning experience that will enhance and expand your journey in Lionism.



LION WEBMASTER DUANE LEADERS OF DISTRICT 2-S3 WINS RECOGNITION FROM LIONS INTERNATIONAL



Lion Duane Leaders is the webmaster for the district 2-S3 web site, and recognized for that from Lions International. The web site was entered in the Lions Clubs International web site contest for district web sites. Awards were presented at the International convention in Sydney, Australia. District 2-S3 Governor Mike Smith emailed Lion Duane while at the convention to let him know that the District 2-S3 web site was awarded honorable mention. There are only three awards given out in this contest, one first place and two honorable mentions. A certificate was presented to Lion Duane by the District Governor at the District Zone I meeting September 11th. Congratulations Lion Duane!

Lions Clubs International MD-2 Texas District 2-S3

2010/2011 District Governor
Michael Smith

District 263 Charities Inc.
(MISJ) Registry of Female Early Childhood Education Services

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To visit the 2-S3 Website designed by Lion Duane Leaders, just click [HERE!](#)

FROM LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Dear Lion,

I once heard an African proverb that I will forever remember: the best way to help someone in need is to wipe their tears. Lions, we do this every minute of every day! Our hands are helping those in need, and the compassion in our hearts is wiping their tears. One way we are doing this is by improving the health and education of children worldwide.



Just last month, Margit and I were in Ethiopia and Madagascar to help launch our Lions-Measles Ini-

tiative pilot programs. In these countries Lions helped vaccinate nearly 10 million children. This is truly sensational!

Did you know that measles is the leading cause of vaccine-preventable deaths in children? Over the next three years, 1.7 million children will likely die from this disease, which also causes blindness. Lions, we can and we must stop this!

At a health center in Imersituska, a rural village in Madagascar, I met Marie Louise Razafindrazanana, who brought her nine-month old son, Patrick, to be vaccinated. She knew all too well the dangers of measles, as she lost her daughter to the disease. I truly felt I was wiping her tears, but she gave me something in return - a smile of hope and gratitude. Her story echoes those that I heard in Ethiopia. But these mothers know that we



Lions are giving their children hope for a long, healthy life.

Lions have long been committed to improving quality of life for children. Another way we do this is by improving their education and providing them with vital life skills. In meeting with government officials in both countries, they pledged their full support to the measles program. But they were also very interested in starting Lions Quest in their country.

Like so many other leaders worldwide are realizing, Lions Quest can and should be a key component to improving the general well being of our youth. Government can't do this alone. It takes all of us working together to really make an impact.

Moments like these also make me realize the significance of what our Foundation does for people in need, but there is so much more we can do. Please, Lions, let's continue to give hope to our youth for a healthier and brighter tomorrow by wiping away tears through our Foundation!

With cordial regards,

Eberhard J. Wirfs
Chairperson, LCIF

 A blue banner featuring a stylized, glowing Christmas tree on the left. The text on the right reads: "As we come together with friends and family this holiday season to celebrate, let us not forget those who are not so fortunate. By giving to LCIF, you offer people in need the chance for a better life and hope moving forward. Give the gift of hope this holiday season."

IRVING DALLAS FORT WORTH INDIAN LIONS

September 10, 2010
by lionmagazine

There are many issues in the headlines that may seem too large to tackle: health care, economic issues, climate change and unemployment. But the daunting nature of a nationwide issue did not deter the Irving DFW Indian Lions from starting an ambitious signature service project. Seven years ago, their Dallas suburb was feeling the aftershock of the dot-com crash of 2000. Unemployment soared and many residents who were firmly in the middle class found themselves without insurance. Many more were unemployed, but still consid-

ered too wealthy to qualify for other types of assistance.

That's when the club opened the doors to its first Primary Care Clinic of North Texas. Now with locations in Plano and Lewisville, the clinics saw nearly 7,000 patients last year at a cost of \$35 per office visit. The clinics are fully staffed by paid employees five to six days per week. They charge nominal fees for blood work and other standard tests. The services are available to any person older than 12 without insurance.

Lions volunteer their time to balance the books, file the taxes and

keep the clinics running. One Lion also donates his time as a medical doctor. Last year, 32 percent of the operating revenue was donated by Lions, private organizations and well-wishers. The remainder is collected from patients as fees for services rendered. The clinic receives no government assistance. We recently went to the Clinic with a video crew to see what goes into this massive operation. Members of the Irving DFW Indian Lions Club were eager to provide a behind-the-scenes look at this community-improving service project.

Watch [HERE](#) on You Tube!

PLANO LIONS ARE KNIGHTS OF THE BLIND

By Kim Williams,
kwilliams@acnpapers.com

Howard Harkness, webmaster for Plano Early Lions Club, is teaching a local woman who lost her sight how to use a computer.

"Vicki needs assistance obtaining software for her personal computer to allow her to read email and web-based information, something most people take for granted," said Jack Durnin, a Lions Club member. "Just imagine trying to navigate the Internet or your email with the monitor shut off, because that is what Vicki and other sight-impaired individuals face."

Vicki Dill's situation came to the



Submitted Photo - Vicki Dill receives instructions from Plano Lion Howard Harkness.

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attention of Plano Early Lions Club members who decided to help her through the organization's "Sight First" program.

"Many people know of Helen Keller and her struggle to live and communicate after she became blind and deaf as a result of a fever when she was 18 months old," Durnin said. "What many don't realize is Helen Keller addressed the 1925 Lions Club International convention and asked the Lions to become her 'knights of the blind.'"

Harkness researched programs available and found a free, 4-year-old open-source program called NonVisual Desktop Access. NVDA is a screen reader for the Microsoft Windows operating system. The system provides feedback through synthetic speech and Braille by enabling blind or vision-impaired people to access computers by running Windows for the same cost as a sighted person.

"It is not quite as good as JAWS [another screen reader for people who are blind or vision impaired], but the price made it very attractive, since the Plano Early Lions Club's finances are suffering in the current economic situation," Durnin said. "Some of the NVDA developers are themselves blind, so they have great knowledge of what is needed."

A programmer by trade, Howard joined the NVDA programming group and hopes to get a chance to contribute to the development of the software, since it is open-source.

"An important element in this situation is the email software itself," Durnin said. "Although Gmail is free and adequate, Howard chose another free email product, Thunderbird, which is a bit easier to use because of its accessibility enhancements that came from collaboration with NVDA developers.

Both NVDA and Thunderbird software programs are currently installed on Dill's personal computer.

"There is a steep learning curve to be able to successfully use NVDA and Thunderbird, but Vicki is catching on," Durnin said. "In a recent training session, she listened as the software read her email. Then she composed an email and sent it to her daughter -- a real milestone for Vicki."

Dill made a voice recording of Howard's instructions for opening emails and navigating around her emails to make an easy reference.

"She also has those instructions in an email, which she can listen to for more complex actions," Durnin said. "As she gets more competent with the software, she will be able to handle more email and Internet functions."

Dill appreciates all the help the Lions Club is giving to her.

"They're giving unlimited number of hours of volunteer work," Dill said. "I paid a vision company to come out a couple times, but they wanted \$50 an hour, and that was

just too much."

Dill was not always blind, although her problem was detected almost 40 years ago. Diagnosed in 1972 with retinitis pigmentosa, her sight slowly dwindled. RP starts debilitating the center of the vision field instead of the peripheral. It is the inverse of macular degeneration.

"I stopped driving in 1989, and in 1997, I couldn't read a pencil or printed word in magazines, so I went to Books on Tape, which is free through Texas State Library for the Blind. In 2006, I could not use my computer anymore."

Dill is classified legally blind and only sees shapes, light-dark contrasts, movement and sometimes prints like stripes.

"It's like looking out of a foggy window," Dill said.

She is thankful for the Plano Early Lions Club, because the group has made it possible for her to stay connected with the world.

"Because of Howard's time and his research, he has made all of this possible," Dill said. "I can never put into words my appreciation for what he has done for me and what the Lions Club has done. They love to help people."

Harkness has been tutoring Dill for more than two months.

"I first heard from Vicki nearly two years ago, and at that time, I referred her to Blind Ambitions Inc.,

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which is run by a fellow Lion, Mark Marvel, who is totally blind,” Harkness said. “This summer, Mark called me to ask if my club could help with the expense of getting a commercial screen reader program with a \$1,200 price tag.”

Harkness contacted Vicki to get more information on her situation and began looking for a more affordable solution.

“Our treasury is pretty much tapped out with our existing charity support,” Harkness said. “I started with looking for competition, discounts or easier payment plans, but in the process, I discov-

ered the existence of NVDA, which is totally free.”

Harkness believes NVDA has some limitations compared to the commercial screen readers but can still help Dill with her needs.

“Most of those shortcomings have to do with jobs or commercial use,” Harkness said. “Since Vicki is retired and is using her computer only for personal things, those shortcomings don’t matter.”

Harkness wants to coordinate efforts to provide affordable computer access to others in Vicki’s situation.

“I have contacted a group that puts together computers for the blind at

very low cost, and I think that we could,” Harkness said. “Helping people is rewarding. Generous people are generally happier, healthier, and live longer, so I guess you could say that I help other people for the most selfish of reasons.”

This has been a learning experience for Harkness, since he is not blind.

“I had to learn about the details of the difficulties Vicki faces, and I had to basically invent teaching methods as I went along,” Harkness said. “Fortunately, I have many years of teaching experience, so I have both the skill and patience required. I have taught technical short courses for several national training companies, programming courses for Collin College, and I teach private violin lessons.”

Lions Clubs worldwide host ongoing projects such as Sight First, which includes eye exams and glasses for those who otherwise could not obtain them and summer camps for sight-impaired children.

“Sight First strives to eliminate blindness and vision loss, especially in developing countries,” Durnin said. “This program has helped save or restore sight in over 30 million individuals since its inception in 1990.”

For information about the Plano Early Lions Club, visit plano-lions.org. For information about Sight First, just [follow this link](#).



SNOWBALL EXPRESS MAKES THE COVER OF LIONS MAGAZINE

LION



Lions Clubs International

WWW.LIONSCLUBS.ORG NOVEMBER 2010



If you've ever wondered about the Snowball Express, what it is, what it does, or how many lives it touches, just read the November issue of Lions magazine. Lions from District 2-X1 have stepped up to the plate to give 1,400 parents and children four days of joy. Since the inception of the Snowball Express, a non-profit group formed in 2006, over 8,000 children who have lost a parent on active duty since 9-11 have been served. PDG Lion Carolyn Dorman introduced the board chairperson of the Snowball Express and her husband, Bob, at a cabinet meeting. That's all it took for the Lions to give their all to these deserving families. If you missed the November issue of the Lion magazine, [just follow this link](#). And have some tissue ready.

SENIOR LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Senior Lions Leadership Institutes focus on building the skills of Lions leaders to prepare them for leadership responsibilities at zone, region and district levels.

Qualified candidates are Lions in good standing who have completed a successful term as club president, but have not yet attained the position of First Vice District Governor. Candidates do not have to hold a position currently.

Candidates must be willing to commit to every day of the institute. And it's a serious commitment. For four days, November 18-21, the selected Lions attended sixteen sessions, as well as smaller assigned group meetings daily. One hundred Lions were chosen to attend.

Dining was also a group affair, which gave the attendees an opportunity to network and exchange ideas.

This year, our constitutional area held SLLI in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

There is an upcoming Faculty De-



The beautiful Marriott Pyramid Hotel. Other than the inside, this is the only chance most of us had to see the outside. It was a busy four days!



Nine Lions from Texas attended the 2010 SLLI. From Left to Right are Lions J. P. Kirksey, Paul Eads, Tom Hayford, Lawrence Sanchez, Susan Wallis, John Paul Burnett, Wendy Van Winkle, and Anse Windham, and the yet to be identified photographer.



Meals were also a group event, which gave Lions from all over our Constitutional Area a chance to get to know each other and relax a bit.

velopment Institute program which is dedicated to the development and expansion of Lions faculty. The curriculum focuses on techniques and concepts that will enhance the quality of training and overall effectiveness of Lions leadership development programs. For more information, [follow this link](#).



VDG John Paul Burnett receives his Certificate of Completion for SLLI.

LA PORTE ISD AND LIONS ADDRESS UNINSURED POPULATION

By Ford Gunter , a freelance writer and filmmaker in Houston.

It's almost impossible not to notice when an illness sweeps through a school. For two or three weeks, students, teachers and administrators are in and out with runny noses, sore throats, hacking coughs and worse. During flu season, the effects can be crippling to the calendar and hell on the grade book.

So, when school nurses in La Porte ISD saw that an inordinate number of students weren't getting appropriate medical care, they wanted to know why. In 2007, they got the school district to tack on an extra question to the annual student registration form, asking this very question. The answers revealed that almost 10 percent of the district's nearly 8,000 students didn't have health insurance.

Led by head district nurse Laura Lynch, and with the blessing of



*Head La Porte ISD District Nurse
Lion Laura Lynch*

Superintendent Lloyd Graham, the school nurses approached La Porte -area doctors and enlisted three physicians and one optometrist to



Superintendent Lloyd Graham

provide basic services at cut-rate prices.

“We already had good working relationships with doctors in the community,” Lynch says. “They agreed to see the students for \$25 — at no charge to the student — when students arrived with a voucher from a school nurse.”

After treatment, the doctors would send the vouchers back to the school district for reimbursement. Thus, the La Porte ISD's Student Healthcare Voucher Program was born.

Initial funding was covered by a \$1,000 grant from the Children's Defense Fund, and the coffers grew with \$2,000 from Lyondell-Bassell, a Dutch chemicals company with a large presence among

the refineries along the Houston Ship Channel.

The program's affordability carried it through the 2009-2010 school year, despite Lyondell Bassell's bankruptcy. The district paid out \$1,225 on 49 vouchers. Heading into the 2010-2011 school year, the district had \$1,500 remaining in the account and an agreement in place for the *La Porte Lion's Club to become a permanent program underwriter.*

SHORT-TERM HELP WITH FAR-REACHING RESULTS

Realizing that treatment doesn't equal prevention, the district developed the voucher program with a caveat: To obtain a voucher, the child's parent must make an appointment with a Community Youth Services worker to file an application for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the state-funded medical insurance program for kids.

“That way, families are getting a little more independent with their health care,” Lynch says. “It helps them establish a medical home for a child. Once they get the state insurance, they will likely continue with a community doctor they know.”

“With the requirement of having to meet with a community youth specialist, they are on our radar, and we get back with families,”

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says April Fox, director of student support services, who oversees the voucher program.

Graham, who is in his third year as La Porte ISD's superintendent, says that approving the program was an easy yes, and getting community support was even easier.

"This is a school community responding to an apparent need," he says. "It sells itself."

Graham invokes psychologist Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs to drive home his point.

"You can't learn — you cannot self-actualize — unless your



La Porte ISD's Veronica Torres, school nurse at Lomax Elementary, takes the temperature of a student in the school clinic. The participation of local physicians and optometrists in the school voucher program gives school nurses the chance to help parents get necessary medical care for their children.

physiological needs are met," he says. "Only when caring, loving and belonging are infused into a child's life, can that child learn. [The voucher program] is the quintessence of the basis of Maslow's hierarchy. You have a community responding. These are our teachers, our nurses and our parents who have done this."

Though the district doesn't have hard numbers on the voucher program improving student academic performance, the program definitely has cut down on medical absences. District officials say students who go home with ailments that are easily curable are now returning to school faster than before. Also, students who suffer from chronic illnesses, like asthma, are missing fewer days now that they are receiving routine care.

Lonnie Lee, parent of a 17-year-old La Porte High School senior, says his daughter has missed fewer days of school since his family took part in the Student Healthcare Voucher Program.

"My daughter had been having stomach cramps on and off," says Lee. "I went up to get her one day and when I was going to take her out of school, they told me about [the voucher program]."

Lee was laid off last year from his job of 21 years at Polyone Corp., a plastics compounding plant in Seabrook. He had been paying \$500 a month for COBRA insurance until this past summer when he received notice that his rates were going to increase by more than 140 percent. The premium increase marked the

end of his family's coverage.

Lee's daughter has been able to see a doctor twice using vouchers, but the family is still waiting for a diagnosis.

"The doctor said he's not sure until he can run some tests," Lee says. "But the tests cost \$1,000."

In the meantime, a La Porte ISD school counselor has helped Lee apply for Medicaid, and his daughter is taking medicine for her discomfort and continuing to attend classes.

Under the voucher program, when the students need medicine, they notify the school, which issues either the student or a parent a pre-purchased Wal-Mart gift card (purchased at cost — Wal-Mart is not a partner in the program). At this time, La Porte ISD only budgets \$100 a year for the gift cards, and does not have an accountability system in place to ensure that the students or parents use the cards to purchase medicine.

"[We believe] it hasn't been abused," says Fox. "However, it has not been used very often."

Dr. Abdul Moosa, a doctor participating in the voucher program, can sometimes work around the issue by providing drug samples from pharmaceutical companies.

"If it's a short course (of treatment), I can give them five to seven days' worth of samples and they'll be fine," he says. "I also try to avoid medications that will cost the parents \$150 a month."

La Porte ISD initially approached Moosa about serving on the voucher program's advisory board.

"I am one of the physicians on the

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sidelines at football games,” says Moosa, who works in the La Porte Family Clinic. “I’ve been doing that since I came (to La Porte) in 1992. [The district] knew me, because I’ve treated a lot of kids during the games.”

Moosa, a veteran of charity work in India, says it was a natural segue for him to expand his role and become a participating physician in the program. His biggest apprehension, he admits, was that people would abuse the system. But La Porte ISD’s mandate that families must meet with a counselor to apply for Medicaid or CHIP eased his mind. Moreover, the low number of referrals he receives through the voucher program means his participation is economically viable. Moosa sees an average of 400 patients per month; the voucher program makes up for about 1 percent of that.

“On the average, it’s about three to four (students with) vouchers a month,” says Moosa, who normally charges \$75 for a first-time office visit. “I convinced a local pediatrician and another family physician (to participate as well). Between the three of us ... it’s probably between 12 to 15 kids per month getting these vouchers.”

LOOKING AHEAD, THE PROGNOSIS IS UNCLEAR

La Porte ISD has plans to expand the program by adding another doctor or two in the next two years. Dentists aren’t being targeted due to alternate available resources for free dental care, such as “mobile dentists” who visit the schools and provide free exams, sealants and referrals to dentists who will treat students’ cavities for free.

“As we become more secure in our funding, we’ll be doing some more outreach,” Lynch says. “We are working on getting discounted bloodwork and x-rays. We really would like to be able to respond to all needs.”

La Porte ISD’s innovative program is attracting attention outside the district.

“Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services and the Texas Education Agency asked us to do some Webinars and presentations,” Lynch says. “Other districts have expressed interest in it. They want to know how we got started, how we got the doctors on board, the forms, et cetera.”

Despite the program’s success, there are some significant obstacles on the horizon, not the least of which is the prolonged recession, which hasn’t spared La Porte and its petrochemical industry.

“We expect, with the economy like

it is and with the loss of medical insurance, there will be an increasing need,” Lynch says.

Moosa is seeking new ways to raise funds.

“If everyone pitches in, friends, family, neighbors and other doctors could give \$1,000, \$2,000,” he says. “My worry is the economy — the way it’s going. So many companies are going bankrupt or cutting benefits.”

Recession or not, Superintendent Graham thinks the voucher program addresses a fundamental obligation of the public education system.

“This is the essence of every school and every community, and how we respond,” he says. “It’s a clear, succinct example of the way public schools in Texas, within themselves and within their communities, focus on the needs of our children.”



*La Porte ISD representatives and local health care providers discuss the district’s school voucher program. Seated from left are Dr. Rakesh Patel, Dr. Dilip Patel and Dr. Sapankumar Bhatt, La Porte family practice physicians; Melissa Tavakoldavani, Harris County Community Youth Services representative; Dr. Patricia Galos and Dr. Deborah Bernay, optometrists with La Porte Vision Center; and Jo Johnson, retired La Porte ISD teacher and chairperson of the School Health Advisory Council. Standing from left are Laura Lynch, La Porte ISD lead nurse; **Lion April Fox**, director of student support services; Dr. Andreane Fagala, optometrist with La Porte Vision Center and Lions Club president; and **Lion Dr. Abdul R. Moosa**, La Porte family practice physician.*

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2011 • SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Each year, more than 20,000 Lions from across the globe gather together to celebrate at our international convention. The convention offers an ideal setting to reunite acquaintances and make new friends. Learn about other club and district projects. And make personal connections with international leaders and representatives from headquarters.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

During international convention, you'll have the chance to join Lions from more than 100 countries and geographical areas – with different languages and backgrounds – marching side-by-side down the streets of the host city during the [Parade of Nations](#). Attend seminars and [vote on the association's future](#). And enjoy event highlights, including three action-packed [plenary sessions](#), an exciting [exhibit hall](#) and more:



[Condoleezza Rice](#), the former U.S. secretary of state, will be the keynote speaker during our Plenary Session on Friday, July 8, 2011. Rice currently is the Thomas and Barbara Stephenson Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the Hoover Institution and professor of political science at Stanford University in California. From 2005 to 2009, she served as the 66th secretary of state. She was the first African-American woman secretary of state.



[LaDonna Gatlin](#), sister of the legendary Gatlin Brothers, will perform during our Plenary Session on Wednesday, July 6, 2011. Gatlin literally grew up on stage singing with her brothers. But Gatlin realized that success for her could be measured in a different way. So, she has spent her entire career empowering people to "sing their own song" as well – through their words, their deeds and their actions.



[Bill Gates Sr.](#), co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will speak during our Plenary Session on Thursday, July 7, 2011. Gates guides the strategic direction of the foundation and serves as an advocate for its key issues. He first answered his son's request for help by directing the William H. Gates Foundation, which merged with the Gates Learning Foundation to create the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000.



[Gordon Mote](#), a multi-talented singer/songwriter and pianist, will perform during our Plenary Session on Thursday, July 7, 2011. Named the 2009 Keyboard/Piano Player of the Year by the Academy of Country Music, and a Gospel Music Association Dove award winner, Mote is one of gospel music's most entertaining stage personalities. Gordon's blindness somehow attunes his other senses more keenly and fuels his music.

DON'T DELAY – REGISTER TO ATTEND TODAY

Last year's convention was our best yet, and we're setting our sights even higher this year. So don't delay, [register to attend today](#) to lock in your registration at the lowest fee – and secure your hotel reservation at our specially discounted Lions rates.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about the convention, visit our 2010 [Online Convention](#) site or [view video highlights](#) from our 2010 event.

We look forward to seeing you in Seattle!

MD-2 TEXAS STATE CONVENTION 2011



MD-2 TEXAS LIONS 2011

State Convention Tours

Name and Title	Club Name	District	
Address	City	State	Zip
Telephone	E-mail Address		

Spouse Excursion Registration Form

Friday Morning, June 3, 2011

Group will depart hotel at 8:15 am and return to hotel at 11:15 am
Shangri La Botanical Gardens

Your Choice: Boat Ride or Garden Tour (Please Circle only one.)

Afternoon

2:00-4:00 pm

Group will depart hotel at 2:00 pm and return to hotel at 4:00 pm
Energy Museum and St. Anthony Basilica

Saturday Morning, June 4, 2011

Spindletop Gladys City and McFaddin - Ward House
Group will depart hotel at 9:00 am and return to hotel at 11:15 am

Afternoon

Parkdale Mall Shopping Trip - Beaumont

Group will depart hotel at 2:00 pm and return to hotel at 4:00 pm

MAIL REGISTRATION TO:
PDG Randall Morris
825 Creekwood Street
Vidor, Texas 77662-2301

*Come and Enjoy
Cajun Hospitality*

RICH WITH CULTURE
BEAUMONT 
T · E · X · A · S
 WITH A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA



9 am
SHOTGUN
START



MD-2 TEXAS LIONS 2011 STATE CONVENTION

Golf Tournament

Place: Brentwood Country Club
Address: 4201 South Major Drive, Beaumont



Golf Prizes:

- 1st Place: \$100.00 Gift Certificate to each player
- 2nd Place: \$ 75.00 Gift Certificate to each player
- 3rd Place: \$ 50.00 Gift Certificate to each player

Hole # 2 par 3 Hole-In-One – 2011 Car
 (Limited to 1st Winner)

Longest Drive \$ 50 Gift Certificate
MULLIGANS: \$5 Each - Limit 2 per player



Entry Fee: \$85.00 Per Player Includes:

Green Fees, Cart, Range Balls, Lunch, Gift Packet, Prizes & Course Refreshments
 Net Proceeds to Benefit Lions Club Activities

For more information contact: Lion Chet Garner – 962-5327 – golfer3210@gt.rr.com

Entry Form

Deadline: May 27, 2011

Club Name _____ District # _____

Players Name Day Phone HDCP.

Player(s) 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



Make Checks Payable to Texas State Convention

Mail to: PDG Randall Morris, 825 Creekwood Street, Vidor, Texas 77662-2301



MD-2 TEXAS LIONS STATE CONVENTION

June 2 - 4, 2011 • Holiday Inn
3950 I-10 South at Walden Road
Beaumont, Texas 77705

Register Early and SAVE! SAVE!

FIRST TIME ATTENDANCE PLEASE CHECK HERE _____ YES *Hotel Reservations Cut Off May 26, 2011*

MD-2 STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name and Title	Club Name	District	Delegate <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Name and Title	Club Name	District	Delegate <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Address	City	State	Zip
Telephone		E-mail Address	

For Diabetic Meals, Please Check Here

Register by February 11, 2011 w/discount package #1 and save \$29.00. (Early-Early-Early) Register before April 15, 2011 w/discount package #2 and save \$8.00.(Early-Early)	MODE OF TRAVEL				
Dates and Functions	#1 Early Early-Early Bird Postmarked By Feb. 11, 2011	#2 Early Registration Postmarked By April 15, 2011	Registration Postmarked AFTER April 15, 2011	Total No. of Tickets	Total Cost
DISCOUNT PACKAGE Includes all meals, Registration Fee and Thursday Evening. <u>Golf not included.</u>	148.00	169.00	177.00		
REGISTRATION FEE All Attendees, including Non-Lions, must be registered.		\$20.00	\$20.00		
Thursday June 2, 2011 Welcome at Hotel	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge		
Friday June 3, 2011 BREAKFAST		19.50	20.00		
Friday June 3, 2011 HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON		23.00	25.00		
Friday June 3, 2011 PDG BANQUET		30.00	31.00		
Saturday June 4, 2011 TEXAS LIONS FOUNDATION BREAKFAST		19.50	20.00		
Saturday June 4, 2011 YOUTH CONTEST LUNCHEON		23.00	25.00		
Saturday June 4, 2011 MD-2 GOVERNORS BANQUET		34.00	36.00		



All meetings and training will be held at hotel.
 Tours available will be off site.
 Sunday Morning Buffet will be available at the Holiday Inn Plaza on June 5TH, 2011

Amount Enclosed: _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MD-2 STATE CONVENTION 2011 MAIL CHECK(S) and REGISTRATION TO: MD-2 STATE CONVENTION 825 Creekwood Street Vidor, Texas 77662-2301	FOR INQUIRIES Call or E-mail PDG Randall Morris 409-745-3788 409-210-2053 CELL hrmorris flash.net	Hotel Reservations: Holiday Inn Beaumont Plaza In-House Reservations (409) 842-5995 \$99.00 Rate Group Code: Lions Club State Convention 2011
Cancellations Honored Until May 14, 2011		FOR OFFICE USE ONLY Received _____ Check # _____ Amount _____ Due _____

DECEMBER 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
						

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2011

February 3-5
Third Council of
Governors Meeting
Kerrville, TX

March 5 - 6
11th Annual
Texas Lions Leadership Forum
Austin, TX
[Registration Form](#)

June 2 - 4
Fourth Council of Governors Meeting
State Convention • Beaumont, TX

[Registration Form](#)
[State Golf Tournament](#)
[State Tour Packages](#)
2010-2011 Convention/Souvenir Book Ad Form

July 4-8
Lions International Convention
Seattle, Washington

The *Lions of Texas MD-2 News* is a quarterly publication produced by the Public Relations Chairpersons of MD-2 and edited by Lion Wendy Van Winkle. Do you have a suggestion or submission for the MD-2 News? Photos, News and special events for your District are all welcome. Send to dvanwinkle@stx.rr.com or snail-mail to:

Lion Wendy Van Winkle • 106 Espuela Drive • Del Rio, TX 78840