Lions Link
Lions Clubs International District C-1 Newsletter

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LIONS PLEDGE 3
BREAKING NEWS 3
SAVE THE DATE 4
DG TRAVELS 5
NOVEMBER
SERVICE EVENTS 10
DIABETES AWARENESS 11
DISTRICT NEWS 11
LIONS IN ACTION 13-17
KNOW YOUR LEADERS 18-21
FELLOWSHIPS. 22
C1 CONVENTION 23-25
AMPLIFY YOUR IMPACT 26

IN THIS ISSUE PAGE

NEXT NEWSLETTER
SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
25TH OF CURRENT MONTH

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Dear Fellow Lions and Leos,

Greetings!

We are just a few days away from our District C-1 Convention on November 6 and 7 at the Edmonton Inn. The Convention Committee has been working very hard over the past several months, and I want to thank everyone who has helped with the preparations.

We are delighted to welcome International Director Gary Steele as our International Guest, along with PIP Dr. Patti Hill, LCIF Trustee PID Marvin Chambers, PID Bill Webber, the District Governor Team from C-2, and several other distinguished Lions. We are also pleased that the Mayor of Edmonton, a City Councillor, and a couple of MLAs have confirmed their attendance.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you, especially during Friday's cultural evening and Saturday's District Governor's Banquet. I hope you will take the opportunity to meet Lions from other clubs, renew friendships, and share ideas.

We are also using the Convention to support two community initiatives. We will be collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations for the Edmonton Veterans Food Bank. In addition, the Edmonton Malayali Club, in partnership with the Samanwaya Cultural Association, is organizing a winter jacket drive. The jackets will be handed over to St. Vincent de Paul. Please consider contributing to these worthwhile causes.

District Cabinet Meeting – Sunday, November 8

A reminder to all Cabinet members that our next District Cabinet Meeting will take place on Sunday, November 8, at 9:30 AM in the Vernon Room at the Edmonton Inn, the morning after our Convention.

Our Global Causes

October was the Vision Awareness Month. World Sight Day on October 8 and International White Cane Day on October 15 provided opportunities to raise awareness of preventable blindness and the challenges faced by people with visual impairments. Let us continue to support activities such as vision screening and eyeglass recycling.

Continued next page

November is Diabetes Awareness Month, with World Diabetes Day on November 14. Diabetes is another of our global causes, and I encourage clubs to consider organizing awareness sessions or supporting local diabetes programs. With winter approaching, this is also a good time to support food banks, collect winter clothing, and reach out to those who may need help.

Our District GST Coordinator, Lion Aida, has shared some service ideas elsewhere in this newsletter. Please take a few minutes to read her message.

Our Leos at Work

I am particularly happy that we will have strong representation from Leos at our Convention this year. Twelve Leos from the Edmonton Aurora School Leo Club, sponsored by Forest Heights Family Dental, Edmonton, will be attending. We will also have four Leos sponsored by the Edmonton Korean Lions Club and one prospective Leo from the Edmonton Chinese Lions Club. It is wonderful to see our young people taking an interest in Lionism. Let us make sure they are valued at our Convention and feel welcome.

I also want to recognize the Edmonton Aurora School Leo Club for their participation in the fall cleanup at Valour Place on October 18. Leo President Afan, Vice-President Nandika, and Leo Jacob spent more than three hours helping with the cleanup, with support from Lion Carole Henson. You can read about that elsewhere in this newsletter. Let us continue to support Leos and involve them in service activities.

Membership – We Need to Do More

Membership continues to be one of our biggest priorities. We need new members, but we also need to take care of the members we already have. May I provide you with a couple of reflection questions? Are we making them feel welcome? Are we giving them opportunities to participate? These are questions every club should ask.

We need to be particularly concerned about some of our smaller clubs that are struggling to survive. These clubs have served their communities for many years, and it would be unfortunate to see them unable to continue serving as before. I request that our Zone Chairs and neighbouring clubs reach out and see what can be done to help. We cannot leave struggling clubs to manage on their own.

Honouring Our Veterans

November 11 is Remembrance Day, a time to remember and honour those who have served our country. This year, the tragic loss of four Canadian soldiers in Wainwright, Alberta, is a painful reminder of the sacrifices made by our military personnel and their families. When we wear a Poppy, we make a promise to remember the lives behind the uniforms and the sacrifices made for the freedoms we enjoy in this beautiful country, our home and native land.

During our Convention, representatives from Veterans House Canada will give a presentation and take a few minutes to honour our military personnel. I am particularly pleased that we can include this recognition at our Convention, especially as we approach Remembrance Day and mourn the recent tragedy in Wainwright.

I encourage our clubs to participate in local Remembrance Day ceremonies and continue supporting veterans and their families. Our collection for the Edmonton Veterans Food Bank during the Convention is one small way we can turn our remembrance into meaningful service.

Lest We Forget!

Before I close, I want to thank our club presidents, secretaries, Zone Chairs, Cabinet members, and all the Lions and Leos who continue to give their time to serve others. I know many of you are balancing family, work, and other commitments, yet you continue to make time for Lions. May God continue to bless you for your sacrifices.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Convention. Let us have two wonderful days of friendship, fellowship, and learning from one another.

Keep serving. Keep sharing your stories. Keep looking for new ideas. Together, let us continue to **Lead • Include • Serve** and build stronger Lions, stronger clubs, and stronger communities.

Yours in Lionism,

Dr. Thomas Varghese
District Governor 2026–2027

https://lionsc1.org/

Lead with courage and vision.
Include with kindness and respect.
Serve with compassion and commitment.



ROOTED IN SERVICE

The Lions Pledge

"I pledge allegiance to my country and to the cause of peace throughout the world. I believe in the principles of Lionism as contained in the Code of Ethics, and will embody these principles by serving my community and supporting our global foundation. I am proud to be a Lion supporting our global foundation. I am proud to be a Lion, dedicated to the service of others."

Thomas Varghese DG - District C-1

BREAKING NEWS

THE CLERC VAN IS COMING!

This just in - the CLERC Van is coming to Edmonton for the C -1 Convention November 6-7.

If anyone has glasses or can-tabs please bring them the convention.

Cheers
Lion Bill Stecewicz
Clerc Chair







SAVE THE DATE

	C1 CONVENTION 2026/27	November 06-07.2026	Edmonton Inn and Conference Centre, Alberta	CLICK TO REGISTER ON-LINE	See Page **23-25**
	REMEMBRANCE DAY	November 11			
	St. Albert Host Lions 75th Anniversary	February 12, 2027	St. Albert Alberta	Details to follow	
	WEEK OF SERVICE YOUTH	**FEBRUARY 13-21, 2027**	**Amplify your club's impact**		See Page **26**
	WEEK OF SERVICE ENVIRONMENT	**MAY 29 – June 06 2027**	**Amplify your club's impact**		See Page **26**
	Washington DC 109TH LIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION	July 2-6 2027	Washington DC, USA	Details to follow	
	USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum	September 16-18, 2027	Huntsville, Alabana, USA	USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum |	
	RESERVED FOR YOUR CLUB'S SPECIAL EVENT				

DG TRAVELS







At the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Memphis, one of the sessions that I attended was the one titled **"Starting and Supporting Leo Clubs."** This presentation was by PIP Dr. Patti Hill and ID Nadine Bushell. The room was filled with enthusiastic Lions eager to learn more about starting Leo clubs and supporting young people on their service journey. There were many meaningful conversations, exchanges, and good ideas shared throughout the session. But one message stayed with me: we need to give Leos meaningful responsibilities and opportunities to lead.



Sometimes we say that young people are our future leaders. But if they are going to lead in the future, we need to give them a chance to lead now. Let them chair meetings. Let them come up with service projects and carry them out. Give them opportunities to manage a budget, present their ideas to Lions, help with social media, recruit members, and represent their clubs. We should be there to support them, but we don't have to do everything for them.

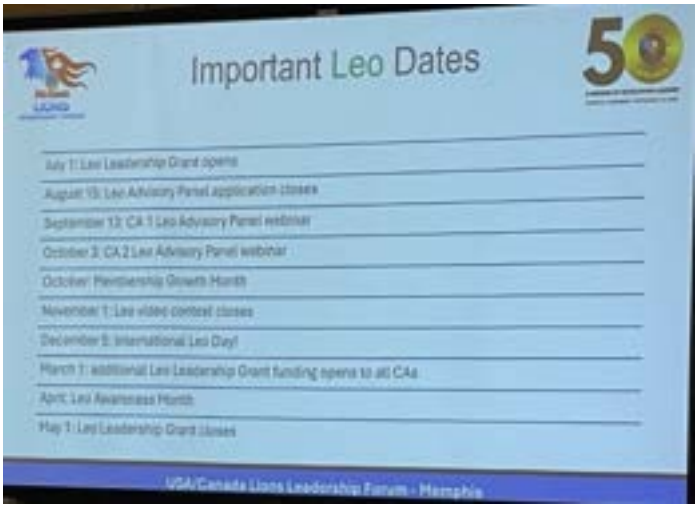
The session also reminded us about the role of the Leo Advisor. An advisor is there to guide, not to be the Leo President. We need to listen before giving advice. We need to encourage them, build their confidence, and give them room to make mistakes and learn from them.

One statement from the session that really caught my attention is: “Mentoring is not creating younger versions of ourselves. It is helping young people become the best versions of themselves.”

I think there is an important lesson in that for all of us. Our Leos (and, of course, the new Lions we bring to our Clubs) may do things differently from the way we have always done them. That is okay. Give them a voice. Give them responsibility. Let them lead, and let’s be there when they need our support.

That is one way we can truly **Lead, Include, and Serve!**







Inspiring Growth Through Meaningful Service

Another session, which attracted a room packed with Lions, was presented by PDG Suzanne Leshchyshyn. The session was titled “Inspiring Growth Through Meaningful Service.”

The session asked us to think about a simple question: Are the service projects we do still meaningful and making an impact in our communities? Sometimes we continue doing the same projects year after year simply because that is what we have always done. But once in a while, we need to stop and look at what we are doing. Is there still a need for the project? Are our members excited about it? Is it making a difference? Can we do it differently or make it better?

Lion Suzanne shared ideas on how clubs can evaluate their service activities and make changes when needed. Meaningful service can also help us attract new members. When people see Lions making a real difference in their community, they may want to be part of it. It can also help us retain our current members because they can see that their time and effort are making a difference. Many thought-provoking ideas were shared about strengthening our clubs through service. It was another powerful reminder to all attendees that service is at the heart of who we are as Lions.

Lion Suzanne is one of only three Lions International Certified Instructors in Multiple District C and has facilitated and moderated sessions at the Forum on numerous occasions.





Canadian Meeting at Forum

Canadian Lions Update – USA/Canada Forum

The Canadian meeting was lead by PIP Dr. Patti Hill and ID Debbie Dawson. There were other presenters as well. Several topics were discussed. Below is a snapshot of some important discussion points. There were 84 Canadian Lions at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. It was a good opportunity for Canadian Lions to meet, share ideas, and hear about some of the work happening across Canada.



One of the discussions was about welcoming new members. Zone Chairs are encouraged to reach out to new Lions with a welcome email. This gives new members another connection to Lions outside their own club and helps them feel part of the District.

There are also plans to provide more support for Zone Chairs across Canada, including webinars and practical training. Another idea is to have experienced Lions who can help others navigate the Lions portal. District leaders were also reminded to keep their goals and information on the portal up to date.

Membership growth and retention continue to be important. Mission 1.5 is not just about adding members. We also need to keep our existing members involved and connected. Leos must also need to be part of the equation. We need to find ways to keep Leo clubs connected with Lions.

There was also an update on LCIF grants. District and club grants are available. Clubs that donate US$5,000 or more to LCIF during the year may qualify for a Community Impact Grant of 15% of eligible donations. Clubs were encouraged to check their LCIF balance around April 30 to see how close they are to the US$5,000 level. This gives them time before the end of the Lions year.



There was also discussion about disaster donations and the importance of making sure donations are made to the appropriate LCIF fund. Clubs should check the LCIF guidelines to ensure their donations qualify for the grants they hope to access.

Communications and advocacy were also discussed. We do a lot of good work, but we need to tell our stories. Lions International is developing resources that clubs and districts can use for marketing and communications.



The Lions of Quebec shared a good example of Lions working together. Their Eternal Flame of Peace project took several years to complete and brought together Lions from different areas. It was a good example of unity and cooperation.

One message that came through strongly at the meeting was that Canadian Lions need to support one another. We may belong to different clubs, districts, and multiple districts, but we are all Lions. There is a lot we can learn from each other and a lot we can accomplish when we work together.







SOME MORE PICTURES FROM THE FORUM



Memphis Bridge was lit up for the Lions Forum











Next Year's Forum. Registration Open









District C1 was recognized at the Forum





The Poppy is a powerful symbol of Remembrance.

During the Remembrance period (from October 24 until November 11), millions of Canadians wear a lapel Poppy as a visual pledge to never forget those who served and sacrificed. The little red flower has never died, and the memories of those who have fallen remain strong.

Everyone across the country is invited to show their recognition by proudly wearing this symbol of Remembrance. The Poppy should be worn on the left side, over the heart.

Lion Jack Riley

Did you know. The Royal Canadian Legion provides a Poppy Protocol to guide Canadians on appropriate and respectful wearing of the lapel Poppy. When a Poppy is removed, it should be stored appropriately, or it may be disposed of respectfully. We are encouraged, when you find a Poppy that has fallen to the ground, pick it up, brush it off so that it can be kept or disposed of respectfully. Poppy Donations directly supports Canada's Veterans and their families in need.

Lion Barb Riley

Lions Portal Contact Information

Please take a few minutes to review your club's contact information in the Lions Portal and make sure it is current. Having up-to-date officer names, email addresses, phone numbers and other club information helps ensure important District and Lions International communications reach the right people.

Keeping your club information current helps all of us stay connected!

Tip: Does your club have a general club email address? While there isn't a designated spot for it in the Lions Portal, you can add it to the Description section of your club profile. This can provide a consistent contact for your club even when officers change.

NOVEMBER SERVICE EVENTS

November Service - Caring for Our Communities

Key November dates

- **November 8–14, 2026:** Medical Radiation Technologists Week and Nurse Practitioner Week
- **November 8–14, 2026:** Recognize medical radiation technologists and nurse practitioners
- **November 11:** Remembrance Day
- **November 14:** World Diabetes Day
- **November:** Honour perioperative nurses and support local winter-needs initiatives
- **All month:** Diabetes Awareness Month

November offers Lions across District C-1 meaningful opportunities to raise awareness, recognize essential workers and support neighbours preparing for winter.

Diabetes awareness

November is Diabetes Awareness Month, with World Diabetes Day on November 14. Wear blue ribbons or blue clothing to show support; the blue circle is the internationally recognized symbol for diabetes awareness. Clubs can invite a diabetes educator, organize an awareness walk or support local diabetes programs.

Recognizing essential workers (November)

Thank medical radiation technologists, nurse practitioners and perioperative nurses for their vital contributions to patient care. A thank-you card, appreciation visit, club invitation or public recognition can help these professionals feel valued.

Honouring service and meeting local needs

Support Remembrance Day activities and connect with veterans. Collect winter clothing, assist food banks and school meal programs, visit seniors or host a welcoming gathering for youth. Every act of kindness strengthens our community and reflects the caring spirit of Lions.

If your club needs ideas or support, contact your GST Coordinator. They can help identify service opportunities, connect your club with community partners and resources, support project planning and promotion, and ensure your service is reported effectively.

Choose **at least one** November service project, assign a coordinator and add it to the club calendar. Afterward, report the service promptly, including who was served, what was accomplished and the difference it made. Invite community partners, share your stories and ensure your club's November service is counted.

Together, through appreciation, action and reporting, we bring **"We Serve"** to life.



🔵 **November is Diabetes Awareness Month**

You may notice more blue ribbons, blue clothing and blue circles this month, but have you ever wondered what these symbols mean?

Blue represents the sky we all share and reflects the colour of the United Nations flag. **The circle symbolizes life, health and unity**; people around the world coming together to support those affected by diabetes. Introduced by the International Diabetes Federation in 2006, the blue circle became the universal symbol for diabetes awareness.

Why is diabetes one of Lions' global causes?

Lions have a long history of protecting sight. Diabetes can cause vision loss, making diabetes awareness and care a natural extension of that work. In **2017**, Lions International announced diabetes as a global focus, expanding its commitment to education, early detection, access to care and support for people living with diabetes.

This November, Lions across District C-1 can help by hosting an educational talk, organizing an awareness walk, supporting local diabetes programs or simply starting a thoughtful conversation.

On **November 14, World Diabetes Day, wear blue** to show your support. Behind every blue circle is a person, a family and a community that deserves understanding and care.

Together, We Serve. 💙

#DiabetesAwarenessMonth #WorldDiabetesDay

DISTRICT NEWS

District C-1 Celebrates Outstanding Lions Quest Success

District C-1 has some wonderful Lions Quest news to celebrate!

Lion Carole Henson, our District C-1 Lions Quest Chair, has completed and submitted the final report for the LCIF Lions Quest Community Partnership Grant. The grant provided US$15,000 to support Lions Quest activities in our District. Final Report Grant Sept 1 2026.

As you all know, Lions Quest is a program supported by Lions Clubs International Foundation that gives teachers practical resources they can use with young people. It focuses on social and emotional learning and helps students develop important life skills. What makes Lions Quest special is that we are not simply helping one student at a time. We are training educators who can use what

they learn with many students, year after year. The teachers in our District have also found the lessons flexible and useful in various classroom situations.

Through the grant received by District C-1, **three in-person workshops and one online workshop** were held. The training reached 52 teachers, three principals, three vice-principals, 18 educational assistants and several other educators. Approximately **1,210 students** are expected to benefit from the training their educators received. The workshops got the participants (teachers) excited to bring Lions Quest back to their classrooms.

At H.E. Bourgoin School in Bonnyville, Principal Tracy Casselman and her staff were very enthusiastic about the program and LCIF's support. At John A. McDougall School, teachers worked together on Lions Quest lessons and practised ways to use them with their students. It is truly an honour to note that teachers across District C-1 are embracing Lions Quest and taking its lessons directly into their classrooms.

Now the news gets even better!

Lion Carole recently attended the annual Lions Quest gathering in Toronto, where Lions Quest Chairs from across Canada came together to share ideas and experiences. She also had the opportunity to meet Ashlie Daigle, Education Program Specialist at Lions Clubs International, and personally thank her for LCIF's support of Lions Quest workshops.

During the gathering, Carole was presented with **two special certificates for District C-1**:

“For training the most new educators in Lions Quest programs in 2025–2026”

and

“For presenting the highest number of Lions Quest Awards in 2025–2026”

District C-1 was the only district in Canada to receive these two recognitions.

This is something all Lions in District C-1 can celebrate. Once again, it is a testament to what can happen when Lions, educators, schools, and LCIF work together with a common purpose: to make a difference in the lives of our young people. This recognition and success open additional responsibilities. Discussions and partnerships are developing with several school divisions, and there are opportunities to bring Lions Quest to more schools and communities throughout District C-1.



Lion Carole is already looking ahead. As more workshops are planned and new needs are identified, she hopes to apply for another Lions Quest grant and continue expanding the program.

Congratulations to Lion Carole and everyone who has supported Lions Quest in District C-1. Most importantly, thank you to the educators who are taking what they learn back to their classrooms and making a difference in the lives of young people.

This is Lions service at its best! Supporting our teachers today so they can help our young people for years to come!

LIONS IN ACTION

GRAND CENTRE LIONS CLUB

Grand Centre Lions Club, Cold Lake, awarded three $2,000 scholarships to Grade 12 high school students who are perusing higher education. The recipients are:



Zachary Benz Miller from Assumption High School; presentation by Lion Eva Urlacher



Amy Ste-Croix from Ecole Voyageur; presentation by Lions Armand Gagnier and Garry Farrer



Gracie Palsat from Cold Lake High School; presentation by Lion James McDonald

We wish each recipient all the best as they continue their studies.

In Lionism,

Lion Karen Murray, Secretary

Grand Centre Lions Club

Cold Lake

EDMONTON AURORA SCHOOL LEOS

Lend a Hand at Valour Place

With winter approaching, it was time to prepare Valour Place for the colder months. From raking leaves and cleaning vents to putting away patio furniture and laying fresh pathway stones, there was plenty of work to be done.



On Sunday, October 18, 2026, three members of the **Edmonton Aurora School Leo Club**, sponsored by the **Edmonton Host Lions Club**, joined other volunteers at the **Valour Place Fall Cleanup Event**.

Leo Jacob, Leo President Afan, and Leo Vice-President Nandika spent more than three hours helping with the cleanup. **Lion Carole Henson** was also present to support the Leos.

Sylvie Keane, Executive Director of Valour Place, was pleased with their work. Their participation also sparked interest among other volunteers, who wanted to learn more about the Leo Club and its activities.

The event was an opportunity for the Leos to serve their community, work alongside other volunteers, and show what young people can contribute through service.

This is what being a Leo is all about: Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity through service.



In the photo: Leo Jacob, Leo President Afan, and Leo Vice-President Nandika.

A big thank you to Leos Jacob, Afan, and Nandika for their hard work, and to Lion Carole Henson for supporting them.

Lion Carole Henson

REDWATER LIONS CLUB

A great start to the morning and a wonderful kickoff to the weekend began today at Ochre Park School. Lion Les and our Mascot LEO handed out awards to the winners of our annual coloring contest. Students, from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 4, were encouraged to submit a colored copy of our Lions Club of Redwater, WE SERVE, template. We then selected two winners from each class and presented them with gift cards for local businesses.





Today was a “Wild Hair Day” at the school and at a morning assembly, students, teachers, staff and family were witness to the cheers and clapping for each of the 14 deserving recipients. The Lions Club is planning on coordinating all the winning entries into a calendar or booklet that will be handed out before the Christmas break so everyone at home gets to see all the winning submissions. This year we were also able to thank Mrs. Wytrykush as the Best Teacher Participant because her class had the biggest percentage of submissions.



Great job, Ochre Park School! A great learning environment for sure and a good friend to the Lions Club and Leo!



David McRae

LIONS QUEST WORKSHOPS



Joanne McQuggan (blue jacket) and **LQ Chair Carole Henson** (2nd from right) at **H.E. Bourgoin School**, Bonnyville, AB. Of all the workshops I have participated in, this was one of the most enthusiastic team I’ve been fortunate enough to meet. Principal **Tracy Casselman is over the moon excited about LCIF supporting her school!** She provided Joanne with an awesome testimonial. Crime is high in this rural town and she is just the one to make sure her students learn how to be good citizens.



Kindergarten teachers at **John A. McDougall** with their Q-Bears! (and Carole) They love them!! I make a point of giving the K teachers a Q-Bear and a list of ways to use him in the classroom. It’s such fun!



Teachers working on a lesson at John A. McDougall. **Facilitators Lion Joanne McQuiggan and Lion Lucy Johnson** in the far background.

Continued next page



My typical **Lions Quest Display** at conventions. The rollup sign cannot be missed from any vantage point in the room!! **And that's the intention**!



ED Joanne McQuiggan discussing Lions Quest with **Principal Chris Simpson** (grey shirt) and his Vice-Principals and Student Therapist. Chris absolutely loves Lions Quest and used it some years ago and **was delighted that LCIF would "care enough" to support his school! VP Heather Scholze** (blonde) provided Joanne with a testimonial.



Executive Director Joanne McQuiggan is an amazing facilitator and always brings in an element of fun into her presentations. She is easy to listen to and really knows Lions Quest upside down and backwards!! And she has an answer to every question!





Joanne breaks teachers into suitable groups and they collaborate on how to best present a lesson.



And then Joanne asks each group to present their lesson as they would in their classroom, to the rest of the teachers. **Lion Lucy Johnson**, our newest facilitator, is standing over to the far left.



These awesome and devoted **"angels on earth"** teach at **St. Benedict's Catholic School** where they also host about 80 students from a nearby Cree Nation. The principal, **Nadine Guenther**, is so caring and nurturing, and her leadership is evident in the enthusiasm with which her staff approaches teaching.



St. Benedict's Catholic School teachers present on "Listening." This was so well done and lots of laughs as well.



At **St. Benedict's School, a kindergarten teacher** pretends to discuss with Q-Bear how she will present a certain lesson to her class. Of course, Q-Bear whispers back, and she then uses his words to present to the room. So cute and obviously this caring young woman has chosen the right career, and I can imagine she is well-loved by her little classroom charges!

Lion Carole Henson
Lions Quest Chair, District C-1 Canada

MORINVILLE LIONS CLUB

Lions Western Canadian Challenge

-donation of $2,000.

Morinville Community High School (MCHS) hosted 16 high school boys' and girls' teams from Westlock, St. Albert, Devon, Barrhead, Onoway, Grande Prairie, Edson and Morinville on 16 and 17 October.

MCHS Steven Jones, Athletic Director Sr. Boys Basketball Coach and member of the MCHS Tournament Committee, said the Lions Western Canadian Challenge is still one of the premier high school volleyball tournaments in Alberta for 3A schools.

The tournament venues were MCHS and Morinville Georges H. Primeau School.

The players were Morinville MCHS Wolves, Westlock R.F.Staples School Thunderbirds, the St. Albert Paul Kane School Blues, the Devon John Maland School Wildcats, the Barrhead School Gryphons, the Onoway Junior/Senior High School Mustangs, Grande Prairie St Joseph School Celtics, and the Edson Parkland School Pacers.

The Western Canadian Challenge started in 1995 with 24 teams and it quickly grew to 96 teams until 2004. Over the last few years they have downsized again to 20 teams and 16 this year. The Tournament Committee hopes to increase the participation and sponsorship of the WCC. One of the constant sponsors since the beginning is the Lions Club of Morinville.

MCHS mentions that organizing a tournament of this size is a monumental task and the WCC is reliant upon the support of many individuals and businesses. Together they help to make this tournament a great success.

The Lions Western Canadian Challenge has become an important tradition at MCHS. Many of their own athletes have grown up watching this tournament from the sidelines, waiting for their chance to represent their school and community.

Marie Roy

The St. Albert Paul Kane School Blues were the Girls Champions in First Place.



Photo by Lucie Roy

The Barrhead Composite High School Gryphons were in 2nd Place.



Photo by Lucie Roy

The Edson Parkland Composite High School Pacers were in 3rd Place.



Photo by Lucie Roy

DEVON LIONS CLUB

On October 27, 2026, 11 members of the Devon Lions and one member of the Lioness, visited the Leduc and District Food Bank. Ashley gave a tour and information about the many programs offered at the facility. A cheque for $1,835.00 was presented.

As a service project, some Lions made bunwiches while others wrapped individual muffins for the school lunch program. We enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Then, some of the Lions drove to the Food Banks Alberta facility in Nisku. Here, we had an interesting tour of this Food Bank that serves 112 communities province-wide.

Huge thanks to the Food Banks for the work you do for our communities

Lion Gloria Sirski-Bates



THIS SPACE IS RESERVED FOR

YOUR CLUB

Activities & projects

Share your club's activities,

fundraising projects

and opportunities

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

your friendly editor

Know Your DISTRICT LEADERS

The Third Invitation Changed My Life

Reflections on More Than Six Decades of Service, Friendship & Lionism

PID Bill Webber



My first knowledge of a Lions club came from a neighbour and fellow employee of Northwestern Utilities Ltd. His name was Gerry LeBlanc and he would become my sponsor to the St. Albert Lions Club. I don't think it was easy for Lion Gerry. I rejected his first two invitations. My wife, Joan, and I were building our house, and we had four wonderful kids under five years old. I told Gerry that I did not have time to be a Lion, but he did not give up and on his third invitation I accepted and have never regretted that decision.

The St. Albert club had about forty members; several were the "fathers" of the current St. Albert. They included Bill Veness, a former mayor; Dr. Bill Cuts, the town medical doctor; Lorne Akins. All these men have been memorialized with the naming of schools, streets and neighbourhoods in recognition of their role in the community. Coming together with these people was inspiring for a thirty-year-old 'kid.'

A signature project that exists to this day is Lions Park. I recall many Saturdays when we gathered at the park, building shelters, campfire facilities, and playground equipment. Working together on a service project is a positive club building experience.

In the 1970s several communities participated in a Miles for Millions Walk raising funds for CARE of Canada for international development. The St. Albert Lions hosted a Miles for Millions Walk with the goal of building a school in La Pita, Nicaragua with the help of Care of Canada. LCIF was launched in 1968 and was yet to have the international impact it has today. Months later we received photos of the construction of a one-room school in far off Nicaragua. I often look back on this project as the day I became an International Lion. We do have the opportunity to Change the World.

District 37B, and the St. Albert Club encouraged and participated in club visitations. The district promoted club visits with a district-wide contest that recognized, at the annual convention, the club with the most man/miles made visiting other district clubs. St. Albert was a frequent winner. I recall one year, being afraid of defeat, we chartered a bus to visit the Swan Hills Lions Club. With a busload of Lions and a round trip of 400 km we were assured of victory.

What might be considered our ultimate visitation was organized in 1970; six of us representing the St. Albert Lions Club travelled to Atlantic City to attend the Lions International Convention. Past International Director Virgil Moshansky, from Vegreville, was a candidate for Third Vice President of our International Association. This would be the first of 33 International Conventions that Joan and I would attend. It was an exciting but unsuccessful campaign. Tris Coffin from Quebec was elected Third Vice President.

All of these visits expanded our understanding of the structure of our Association and an appreciation of the leadership at each level. This led to my growing involvement in the district and in 1982 my election as 37B District Governor. This provided the opportunity to visit 43 Lion clubs and 6 Lioness clubs from Edmonton to Yellowknife. These visits were an enlightening experience of our We Serve imperative.

One example is a visit to the Manning Lions Club. Manning is a community of about 1,000 people, 700 km north of Edmonton. When we, Joan and I, visited, the club reported the tragic death of a newborn baby with a heart defect. This may have been prevented with the proper equipment. At considerable expense, the Manning Lions Club purchased a fetal heart monitor for their small hospital to guard against a recurrence. Lions Changing the World.

As I look back, I must conclude that we enjoyed a special era in which to have a leadership position in Lions International. This was prior to women becoming members but there was a strong, and growing, number of Lioness clubs. When the District Governor visited it was a night to celebrate. Most often there was a banquet with Lions and their wives attending. This meant that Joan travelled with me and was a major part of any success I enjoyed.

We had an outstanding Council of Governors. MD 37 was made up of eight districts, three in Montana and five in Alberta/BC. This was the Council that created the Lions Eye Bank, a project that I was pleased to chair for several years. The Lions of MD 37 operated the Lions Eye Bank out of the Rockyview Hospital for over 25 years before Alberta Health Services assumed responsibility for the operation. Lions can be very proud of the twenty-five years of service as over 4,000 Albertans had sight restored through a transplant of cornea tissue from the Lions Eye Bank (Alberta) Society.

I served as Council Chair 1983-84. 1984 was the year Judge Brian Stevenson was elected to serve as Third Vice President of the International Association of Lion Clubs. I was privileged to second his nomination in San Fransico to this high office leading to his presidency. 1988 with one year to the conclusion of Judge Brian's term as President, MD 37 would be given the opportunity to submit a candidate for International Director.

I was endorsed by my club and District 37B to seek the candidacy at the 1988 MD37 convention in Calgary. I was opposed by my good friend PDG Dan Sturdevant. We had served as district governors in 1982-83. I was successful and we had a large delegation attend the 1989 International Convention in Miami where I was elected to serve a two-year term as International Director. In my first year I was assigned to the Leadership Committee, and I chaired the committee in my second year.

It was a memorable two years: board meetings in Miami; Munich, Germany; Raleigh, North Carolina; and Brisbane, Australia. These were wonderful opportunities to appreciate the international flavour of the Association. Each board meeting was organized to connect each director and spouse with a local Lion couple to enjoy a dinner at their home. Many formed lasting friendships. Following the Board meetings, we accepted invitations to be the International guests at conventions. The policy is to limit these visits to the director's geographic region; in our case, North America. In the closing months of our two-year term, we were invited to speak at conventions in Sligo, Ireland and Chester, England. In both Board meetings and our many visits Joan became an integral part of every visit. This was important to my pleasure and equally to those we were visiting.

Following my term as director the International Board organized Campaign Sight First. A campaign goal was to raise $150 million (USD) to cure preventable and reversable blindness. Past International President Judge Brian Stevenson was asked to chair the campaign, and he asked me to lead the Canadian campaign. Judge Brian was incredible and the campaign exceeded its goal. We Canadian Lions contributed $4 million to the cause.

As a Past Internation Director I enjoyed a number of presentations at US/Canada Forums. I have also enjoyed serving as a

group leader at nine District Governors-elect schools in conjunction with International Conventions.

One of the most impactful actions taken during Judge Brian's presidency was the constitutional amendment giving women full membership in a Lions club. This amendment had failed at the 1988 International Convention. International President Judge Brian guided it to success in his term. In my mind this may have saved the demise of Lions International. The value of this amendment can be seen in the number of women serving as District Governor; International Director and of course, International President. MD C and Canada can be immensely proud of the commitment and ongoing contribution being made to our Association by PIP Dr. Patti Hill.

I was pleased to play a small part in Lion Patti's trip to the top. In 1990, one year after the amendment, I had the pleasure to induct Patti Hill as a member of the Edmonton Host Lions Club. Note at that time she was not Dr. Patti. For those of us who thought we might be too busy to be a Lion, Lion Patti obtained her PhD while serving as District Governor.

Following Joan's passing in 2022, after 68 years of marriage, I have moved to Calgary where three of my amazing four kids live. I remain a proud member of the St. Albert Host Lions Club and am pleased to report that I have been accepted as an Associate member of the Calgary North Hill Lions Club.

It has been a great run!

PID Bill



OPENING EYES, CHANGING LIVES



There are few people who have perfect vision – and quite honestly, they cannot fully appreciate what it means to those of us who do not have perfect vision when we can put on a pair of glasses and actually see clearly – even suddenly be aware that the individual leaves on a tree are not just a green blur.

I wore glasses from the time I was 12 years old – and through the years as I grew older and technology advanced, I tried contact lenses, reading glasses and then cataract surgery – and now I am back to wearing glasses – albeit reading glasses – but I am still frustrated by the reality that once I could see clearly, and now I can't.

Frustrated – yes – but so thankful that in Canada, I can easily buy a new pair of readers (or 2!).

I knew about CLERC – the Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centre in Calgary – most of us have collected used eyeglasses and sent them to Calgary for them to do what they do – just another service project…

But… One very cold snowy November, someone asked – Who wants to go to Mexico in December? - Who wouldn't? I thought as my arm shot up – pick me. Little did I realize how that trip would change my life – and open my eyes.

I was the token Canadian with a group of Lions of Oregon with about 8 to 9 thousand pairs of glasses to give (yes give) to the poor people in a particular area in western Mexico. You see, for many people in this world, there are so many people who do not have the resources to

buy a pair of glasses when they barely have enough money to feed themselves and the family.

So that first trip to Mexico to give out glasses was eye-opening for me. The local Lions set things up so when we arrived at the location, there were line-ups of hopeful people waiting to see us – many didn't believe the glasses would be free – but they were hopeful.

The 'Clinic' set up included 'eye' doctors – some local, some from the States, translators, and us – the volunteers – rather informal but Without going through the whole process, I want to tell you how these trips changed my life and filled my heart – and made me just a little more appreciative of some things we take for granted in our great country of Canada.

I KNOW that we changed the lives of many people throughout the years – and we were able to do that with the used eyeglasses that had been donated to CLERC and other organizations in the States.

What we literally throw away as garbage – used glasses – these things matter.

One woman – about 40 – did sewing – embroidery on garments that she sold to feed her family – but as her vision declined, her 10 year old daughter had to stay home and thread the needle for her mother. A single pair of readers – that Lions had collected – changed not just the mother's life – because now she would continue to sew, and thus feed her family – but those simple readers changed the life of the 10-year-old daughter – because she could go out to play or even go to school. One piece of our 'garbage' did that.

Many of the more elderly people we gave glasses to – prescriptions as close as we could find in the thousands of pairs of glasses we brought with us or even readers – now these people could read the paper, read their bible.

One gentleman was so excited he ran out of the clinic because he wanted to see his cows in the yard! Again – some things we just threw away.

There were some heartbreaking moments too though – a young man – mid 20s – needed glasses so he could work and also go to school to provide for his family. His vision was so extreme, we couldn't find anything – this tall proud young man who had stood in line for hours, hopeful that we – the Lions – could help him and we couldn't – I can still see his shoulders shaking as he cried in despair – but it didn't end there – though a series of minor miracles – we were able to get glasses for him – made to order – not a pair that had been thrown away. A similar situation that lifted my heart – a young woman walked in – head down, shoulders hunched – speaking in barely a whisper – was hoping the Lions could help – again – a pair of readers from someone in a foreign country -- were placed on the face of this young woman and she lifted her head and she smiled – but then she slowly took the glasses off and handed them back – she had no money – it took a very long time to convince her that no money was needed – and when she walked out of the clinic – those readers were clutched tightly in her hands – held to her heart – and her head held high.

We (LIONS) made a difference – YOU make a difference – such an insignificant thing to recycle old glasses – gives renewed life and hope – what can be better than that?! WE SERVE (in more ways than we realize!)

Respectfully –
Past Council Chairperson
Pauline Cooper



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

What is a Lions Fellowship?

Lions Fellowships are established when there is a need to raise funds for a particular cause, program or organization. Several Fellowships have been established in Alberta through the Lions of Alberta Foundation. Though the goal is raising funds, the Fellowship recognizes community and/or Lion members for their outstanding community service or dedicated Lions service. Recipients are honored with a certificate and/or plaque and pin.

A $500 donation establishes a Fellowship that supports critical initiatives while honoring a dedicated Lion or community member. Fellowships offer a way for Clubs to recognize hard-working members, or show appreciation to members of the community for assisting Clubs with their activities, fundraisers, special events, etc.

The following Fellowships were established many years ago by the Lions of Alberta Foundation. They include:

Bill Webber Fellowship for Sight supports the Sight Fund, and the Sight Bursary and Grant Programs. The Sight Fund provides the ability to purchase vision equipment at major centres. The Sight Bursary supports bursaries at post-secondary institutions for sight-impaired students. The Sight Grant Programs supports 25% of the cost for specialized equipment for visually impaired individuals identified by their Lions Club.

Dr. Jack Dobush Fellowship for Diabetes supports diabetes research at the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary, and supplies for underprivileged diabetic children's program in Edmonton and Calgary.

Dr. Patti Hill Fellowship for the Eye Institute of Alberta supports the purchase of vision equipment at the Eye Institute of Alberta at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. It also supports the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation.

Dr. Greg Powell Fellowship for STARS supports the training of students at the STARS Critical Care & Transport Medicine Academy.

WE SERVE is our motto. Recognizing those who work tirelessly in Service to Others is every Club's obligation. Being recognized with a Fellowship from the Lions of Alberta Foundation is cherished by any member who has received one.

All application forms and additional details are available on the **Lions of Alberta Foundation** website at https://www.e-district.org/sites/albertafoundation/index.php

Yours in Service,
Lion Suzanne Leshchyshyn, PDG
Chairperson, Lions of Alberta Foundation

Program

12th DISTRICT C1 CONVENTION

November 6 and 7, 2026

Edmonton Inn and Conference Centre
11834 Kingsway NW, Edmonton, AB

THEME:

LEAD. INCLUDE. SERVE

Building Stronger Lions, Stronger Clubs, Stronger Communities



FEATURING SPEAKER



International Director
Gary Steele

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

REGISTRATION

FRIDAY EVENING

Cultural Evening
with Multiple Cultural Dances

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

INSPIRING SESSIONS ON:

- Health and Wellness
- Environment
- Camp He Ho Ha
- Veterans House
- Diabetes Awareness
- and Many More!

OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SERVICE ACTIVITIES
Join hands. Make a difference. Strengthen our communities together.

HOSPITALITY ROOM
Hosted on both Friday and Saturday
by the PDG Association

PLEASE BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS
Collecting for Veterans Food Bank

Dear Lions and Leos,

Our District Convention is coming up in November, and I hope many of you will make plans to attend.

Our Convention Co-Chairs, **PDG Henry Lung and Lion Stacey Chan**, along with the **Edmonton Chinese Lions Club** and the Convention Committee, have been working hard to put together a good Convention for us.

The Convention starts Friday evening with a cultural night. This will be a good opportunity to meet Lions from different parts of our District, renew friendships, and enjoy some fellowship together.

The Past District Governors Association will host a hospitality room on Friday and Saturday. Those who are planning to run for District positions, including SVDG and VCC, will also have an opportunity to meet Lions and introduce themselves.

We are also planning some good sessions during the Convention. You will hear about Camp He Ho Ha, the University of Alberta Lions Legacy Project, Veterans House, Lions of Alberta Foundation and other initiatives and projects. There will be opportunities to learn something new and take some ideas back to your clubs.

Of course, we cannot have a Lions Convention without service. The Convention Committee is planning some service activities during the weekend. We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Veterans Food Bank of Alberta. Please bring a few items with you if you can. If everyone brings something, together we can make a good contribution.

I also want to especially invite our Leos. Please come and be part of the Convention. This is an opportunity to meet other Lions and Leos, participate in service, attend the sessions, and see more of what Lions is all about. Lions Clubs that sponsor or work with Leo Clubs, please encourage your Leos to attend and bring them with you.

The Host Club and the Convention Committee have worked hard to keep the cost as low as possible. The early registration fee is only $150. We have also negotiated a special room rate with the Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre. There are only a limited number of rooms available at this rate, so please book your room early.

District C-1 is a very large District. We don't get many opportunities to have Lions from different parts of the District together in one place. The Convention gives us that opportunity. We can meet each other, learn what other clubs are doing, share ideas, and simply spend some time together.

If you have never attended a District Convention, come this year and see what it is all about. If you have attended before, bring another Lion or Leo with you. Better yet, come together as a club.

So please mark November 6-7 on your calendar and plan to join us in Edmonton.

Come for the sessions. Come for the service. Come for the fellowship.

Most importantly, come and be part of your District.

I look forward to seeing you in November. The Online Registration for Lions District C-1 Convention

https://edmontonchineselionsclub.com/

Thomas Varghese
District Governor, District C-1

LIONS INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT C1

Let's come together

TO SERVE & SUPPORT

AT OUR DISTRICT CONVENTION

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE

We are collecting non-perishable food items at the District Convention to support the **Veterans Food Bank of Alberta.**

Please bring your donations and help us support those who served our country.



50/50 CASH RAFFLE

Take a chance and help support our District!

- Winner receives 50% of the total ticket sales.
- The other 50% supports District C1 projects and charitable initiatives.

Thank you for your support!



SILENT AUCTION – WE NEED ITEMS!

We are looking for donated items for our Silent Auction.

- Interested parties place bids on items using a bid sheet – that's how a "Silent Auction" works!
- Your donations help make our Convention a success and support District projects.

If your club or business can donate an item, please contact the Convention Committee.



SPONSOR A MEAL OR SNACK

We are looking for clubs who would like to sponsor Friday night dinner and/or afternoon snacks during the District Convention.

Your support will help us provide great hospitality for all our Lions, Leos and guests.



Thank you!

Your generosity helps us make a difference in the lives of others and build stronger communities together.

LEAD. INCLUDE. SERVE. | *Building Stronger Lions, Stronger Clubs, Stronger Communities* | **DISTRICT CONVENTION NOVEMBER 6 & 7, 2026**

Amplify your club's impact during Youth & Environment weeks

This initiative unites Lions and Leos worldwide to address the critical issues of of vision, youth and the environment. By participating, you'll be part of three impactful weeks dedicated to creating positive change and making a difference in communities around the globe — together. So get involved and help drive collective action for a better future!

-Mark your calendars

Youth | February 13–21, 2027 Join in a Week of Service focused on serving children and youth across all of Lions International's global causes! Plan a service project in honor of International Childhood Cancer Day on February 15, conduct a Lions KidSight vision screening, plan a hunger project for children, or learn more about Lions Diabetes Camps and Youth Camps & Exchange.

Visit the youth global cause webpage to learn more about serving and partnering with youth.

Environment | May 29–June 6, 2027 Take part in a week of service focused on protecting the environment and creating a more sustainable world. Celebrate World Environment Day on June 5 with a service project that creates a healthier community and mobilizes for global action.

The Environmental Awareness, Education and Advocacy resource will help you raise awareness, educate your community and create positive change.

Explore additional service ideas on the environment global cause webpage.

