

USA/CANADA FORUM
SASKATOON, CANADA
SEPTEMBER, 2008

The Forum was attended by over 2,200 Lions. All the Int'l Officers were in attendance. The host committee did a great job of moving us around and serving meals, setting up the various seminars, & had a nice exhibit area. There were only two of us from 1J, myself & Sue Crosson-Knutson. If there was an overall theme it was that we as clubs & Lions do not promote ourselves with publicity and therefore we are a big secret. There were 59 seminars to choose from. The ones I was able to attend were:

- 1) LEADERSHIP EXPRESS – This was a great session with 6 different stops with different themes. I will be sending Bob Jackson a detailed report on this session as part of this could be used in our district convention training to big results. Basically they had you discuss meetings & why you go or don't go; mentoring; recognition; team building; change; & time management.
- 2) FUNDRAISING – many of the ideas presented we already are doing. See list.
- 3) 2ND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR – see separate report
- 4) CLUB DEVELOPMENT – Statistics- 59% of drops happen in first 3 years of becoming a lion; 67% could be saved; & 9,754 lions dropped as of 8/08. Work in each district & then each club. Develop a membership plan. Lions International is unveiling a *Global Membership Team* to work with MERL to try to strengthen retention & turn the downturn around. Lions are up internationally but not here in North America. Advertise more about what we do, be more alert to publicity opportunities. Set goals for 3 to 5 years from now as to where we want to be as a club & as a district.
- 5) REDISTRICTING – see separate report
- 6) LIONS AND THE LAW – Van Stone presentation we have all heard.
- 7) ZONE CHAIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS – brought back pass outs that I have distributed to my fellow ZC's.
- 8) DR. LOVE'S SPONSORSHIP SHOW – A great parody on an old revival meeting where the presenters presented reasons why they were leaving the club or were unhappy and the leader PID Meyers from Alaska would cure them.
- 9) LIONS ALERT & NEW PROGRAMS FROM INT'L – Run by Lion Sue –
 - a) Lions Green Team – community clean ups & recycling programs
 - b) Lions Crew At Work – designed to be a visual way for Lions to promote themselves with a good project. Signs can be acquired saying "Lions Crew at Work" The theme promote & be visual & get publicity for club.
 - c) Alert – Emergency preparedness. Do we have an action plan in our club to react to a disaster in our community. Should do in connection with local authorities, district, & other emergency services.

I wish I could have gone to more. Next year the Forum is in Memphis, & then Milwaukee, & in 2011 Anchorage.

Benefits of Mentoring

(Lions Mentoring Program - Mentorship Guide)

How do Mentoring Lions benefit from a mentoring connection?

- *Personal satisfaction* – Mentors feel a sense of pride by helping Protégé Lions progress. They feel they are giving back some of what Lions Clubs International has given to them.
- *Sharpened leadership and interpersonal skills* – Mentors sharpen their own skills as they coach and challenge their Protégés.
- *Recognition* – In addition to earning awards, good Lion Mentors are well respected at all levels.
- *Information* – Often, Mentors receive feedback and fresh ideas from their Protégés. Protégés offer insight about how the association is perceived.
- *Leadership Advancement* – Assigning Lion Protégés to projects can build the Mentor's reputation for getting things done and developing others to follow the Mentor's example can help the Lion Mentor advance into leadership positions.
- *Legacy* – Mentors gain satisfaction from passing their experience and insight on to the next generation of Lion leaders.

How do Protégé Lions benefit from a mentoring connection?

- *Motivation* – Protégés feel more motivated since a superior and the association is both interested in their development and success and is willing to invest in them.
- *Knowledge and new skills* – Protégés learn from the experiences of Lions leaders.
- *Accelerated advancement* – Protégés participate in customized training which leads to personal development and Lionistic leadership opportunities.
- *Networking* – Protégés cultivate valuable contacts within and outside their Lions clubs.
- *Feedback* – Mentors provide constructive feedback on actions, behaviors, and decisions.
- *Support* – Help with setting and achieving Protégé goals is readily available.

How does the Lions Mentoring Program benefit Lions Clubs International?

- *Retention* – Mentoring improves retention and builds loyalty among Lions Clubs International's members.
- *Legacy* – Mentoring preserves and perpetuates the traditions and creates a legacy for future leaders.
- *Leadership Pool* – Mentoring identifies and trains the next generation of leaders.
- *Quality* – Mentoring raises a Lion's skill level with a shorter learning curve.
- *Diversity* – Mentoring promotes a variety of leaders, work styles, and thinking patterns.
- *Productivity* – Mentoring increases individual and association productivity and communication flow.
- *Involvement* – Mentoring encourages and motivates capable Lions to step forward, utilize their mentoring and interpersonal skills, and be highlighted as committed Lions.

FUND RAISING IDEAS

1. Open a lemonade stand
2. Sell fireworks
3. Hold a turkey shoot
4. Provide bingo games
5. Hold car shows
6. Operate a concession stand
7. Hold an auction
8. Have a garage/rummage sale
9. Have an old book sale
10. Hold a donkey baseball game
11. Have a donkey basketball game
12. Sports challenge to other clubs
13. Make & sell cookbook
14. Sell door prize chances at meetings
15. 50/50 (split the pot) ticket sales at events
16. Sell Christmas trees
17. Sell Lions mints
18. Sell Lions light bulbs
19. Sell Lions brooms, mops
20. Work county fair booth
21. Sell club pins
22. Raffle handmade quilt
23. Sell production items with club logo
24. Sell bumper stickers
25. Make & sell badges
26. Place Lions candy/gum machines at local facilities
27. Have a carnival
28. Run a softball park/association
29. Sponsor a softball tournament
30. Collect used newspaper/paper/aluminum cans
31. Sponsor a wrestling tournament
32. Hold an auction dinner
33. Sponsor a school dance
34. Sponsor a town dance
35. Hold a "slave" auction
36. Have an old car/used car auction
37. Sell handmade crafts
38. Sponsor a craft show
39. Have a basketball tournament
40. Have a talent show
41. Hold a neighborhood cleanup
42. Make & sell yard signs
43. Paint house numbers on curbs
44. Stencil mailboxes
45. Sell advertising space in community yearbook
46. Produce a local celebrity calendar
47. Hold a pancake breakfast, bean & cornbread supper, spaghetti supper, or any other meal
48. Hold a local road race (partner with local running club)
49. Hold a car/motorcycle "poker" run
50. Have a local civic celebrity game show
51. Hold a fishing derby
52. Collect goods & sell at swap meet
53. Have a car bashing
54. Sponsor dunk tank at community event
55. Hold a Halloween costume contest
56. Sell Halloween costumes
57. Sponsor a dirt bike rally
58. Hold a golf tournament
59. Develop & sell local maps
60. Sell American flags for special holidays
61. Hold a lock-in for school groups (after prom, graduation)
62. Have a car wash
63. Hold an ice cream social
64. Hold eating contest (watermelon, pies, etc.)
65. Have a chili cook-off
66. Have a pet talent show
67. Hold a "for fun" dog show (fastest wag, longest ears, etc.)
68. Hold an ethnic theme dinner
69. Have a baby pageant
70. Have a baby photo contest
71. Have a local art show/contest
72. Sponsor soccer association/tournament
73. Sell merchant coupon books
74. Hold a horse/cow chip bingo game
75. Have a cake walk
76. Hold a dance-a-thon
77. Have a horseshoe tournament
78. Provide window cleaning service
79. Sponsor a sports clinic
80. Have a white elephant sale
81. Provide pony rides for kids
82. Have a Frisbee golf tournament
83. Hold a bowling tournament
84. Raise & sell/auction farm animals
85. Sponsor a lion at the zoo
86. Have a bake sale
87. Have a NO bake sale
88. Hold a trivia bowl with civic leaders or clubs
89. Sell seasonal fruit/fruit baskets
90. Hold a fish fry
91. Sell Lions accessories to members
92. Sponsor a BMX bike rally
93. Hold an October fest
94. Have a game booth at carnival or fair
95. Make videos for insurance claims
96. Cut/sell/deliver firewood
97. Have a snow cone stand
98. Sponsor a music festival/competition
99. Sponsor a swim meet
100. Have a gift wrap stand for holidays
101. Deliver telephone books
102. Kidnap the Tail Twister's bank

SERVICE PROJECTS

- 1) CONDUCT PRESCHOOL VISION SCREENING
- 2) CONDUCT DIABETES SCREENING
- 3) SPONSOR A BLOOD DRIVE
- 4) ADOPT A HIGHWAY
- 5) ADOPT A PARK
- 6) ADOPT A SCHOOL
- 7) PURCHASE EYE EXAMS & GLASSES
- 8) RING FOR SALVATION ARMY
- 9) SPONSOR FOOD DRIVE
- 10) VOLUNTEER AT NURSING HOME
- 11) COLLECT USED EYEGLASSES
- 12) SPONSOR CAREER FAIR
- 13) SPONSOR DRUG AWARENESS SEMINAR
- 14) SPONSOR ATHLETIC TEAMS (LITTLE LEAGUE)
- 15) SPONSOR FOSTER CHILDREN ACTIVITIES
- 16) PARTICIPATE IN YOUTH EXCHANGE
- 17) SPONSOR A VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE
- 18) CONDUCT A HEARING DOG WORKSHOP
- 19) SPONSOR OR VOLUNTEER AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS
- 20) VOLUNTEER FOR MEALS ON WHEELS
- 21) SPONSOR OR VOLUNTEER FOR ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMS
- 22) CONDUCT VOLUNTEERISM WORKSHOPS FOR YOUTH
- 23) PARTICIPATE IN EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES
- 24) SPONSOR A VETERAN'S DAY OUTING
- 25) PROVIDE A FIREWORKS DISPLAY
- 26) PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS
- 27) GIVE SPECIAL AWARDS TO HONOR STUDENTS
- 28) SPONSOR A VOTER REGISTRATION DAY
- 29) SPONSOR A "MOST IMPROVED STUDENT" PROGRAM
- 30) SPONSOR YOUTH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS
- 31) SPONSOR A HHP SHOOT CONTEST
- 32) SPONSOR SPELLING BEE AT SCHOOL
- 33) SUPPORT OLYMPICS OF THE MIND ACTIVITIES
- 34) RECRUIT CORNEA DONATIONS
- 35) SPONSOR HUNTER SAFETY SEMINAR
- 36) SPONSOR BUCKLE UP (SEAT BELT) CAMPAIGN
- 37) CONDUCT SELF ESTEEM WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS
- 38) SPONSOR LION'S QUEST PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS
- 39) DO SAFETY SURVEYS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES
- 40) SPONSOR DEFENSIVE DRIVING SCHOOLS
- 41) SPONSOR A POLICEMAN APPRECIATION DAY
- 42) SPONSOR A FIREMAN APPRECIATION DAY
- 43) SPONSOR A TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY
- 44) SPONSOR A NURSE APPRECIATION DAY
- 45) PLAN A "PLANT A TREE" DAY
- 46) SPONSOR "LAWN OF THE WEEK" RECOGNITION
- 47) SPONSOR A VACCINATE YOUR PET PROJECT
- 48) SPONSOR ARMED FORCES DAY ACTIVITIES
- 49) SPONSOR SCHOLASTIC CONTESTS
- 50) HONOR RETIRING TEACHERS
- 51) SPONSOR A LEGISLATORS DAY
- 52) HAVE A SPECIAL NUTRITION AWARENESS PROJECT
- 53) SPONSOR SMOKING CESSATION ACTIVITIES
- 54) SPONSOR A SCHOOL BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY
- 55) SPONSOR TRIPS TO THE ZOO FOR NEEDY CHILDREN
- 56) VOLUNTEER FOR BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS
- 57) SPONSOR BOY'S RANCH ACTIVITIES
- 58) SPONSOR GIRLS/BOYS STATE PARTICIPANTS
- 59) SEND CARDS TO SERVICE MEN
- 60) PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS TO SHOP OR VOTE OR TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS
- 61) SPONSOR A CPR COURSE
- 62) SPONSOR A LIFE GUARD TRAINING
- 63) PROVIDE BULLET PROOF VESTS FOR POLICE
- 64) PROVIDE BULLET PROOF VESTS FOR POLICE DOGS
- 65) SEND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO IMPOVERISED COUNTRIES
- 66) PROVIDE FOOD FOR COMMUNITY CUPBOARD/PANTRY FOR NEEDY FAMILIES
- 67) SPONSOR A CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION CENTER
- 68) BUILD A PICNIC SHELTER/PAVILION
- 69) SPONSOR FIELD TRIPS
- 70) PROVIDE FANS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS WITHOUT AIR CONDITIONING
- 71) HOLD A PARTY FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN
- 72) REFURBISH A HOME FOR A NEEDY FAMILY
- 73) PROVIDE BLANKETS, COATS, GLOVES FOR NEEDY
- 74) SPONSOR A CHILDREN'S IDENTIFICATION DRIVE
- 75) DO A CHOLESTEROL SCREENING
- 76) BUILD A SPORTS COMPLEX
- 77) SPONSOR A ROADSIDE COFFEE STAND FOR HOLIDAY TRAVELERS
- 78) SPONSOR AN EDUCATOR TO ATTEND LIONS QUEST TRAINING
- 79) HOLD A BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING
- 80) SPONSOR CHILDREN'S GAMES AT A SPECIAL EVENT IN YOUR CITY
- 81) SPONSOR SUMMER CAMP FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN
- 82) BUY BOOKS FOR LOCAL LIBRARY OR SCHOOL
- 83) PROVIDE SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE
- 84) RECORD TAPES OF BOOKS/MAGAZINES FOR THE BLIND
- 85) VOLUNTEER FOR RECORDING FOR THE BLIND & DYSLEXIC
- 86) BUY A WHEELCHAIR FOR A DISABLED PERSON
- 87) SPONSOR A COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR
- 88) SPONSOR AN ARTS & HUMANITIES PROJECT
- 89) SPONSOR A PEACE POSTER CONTEST AT A LOCAL SCHOOL
- 90) SPONSOR A PATRIOTIC ESSAY CONTEST FOR STUDENTS AT A LOCAL SCHOOL
- 91) SPONSOR A SPEECH CONTEST - "WHY I LOVE AMERICA"
- 92) PUT OUT FLAGS ON MAIN STREET FOR SPECIAL DAYS/OCCASIONS
- 93) BUY A VAN TO TRANSPORT HANDICAPPED PEOPLE
- 94) PROVIDE HANDYMAN CHORES FOR WIDOWS, ELDERLY OR DISABLED CITIZENS
- 95) CONDUCT SCOLIOSIS SCREENING
- 96) CONDUCT A SIGN LANGUAGE WORKSHOP
- 97) CREATE A CHARACTER (MASCOT) TO REPRESENT YOUR CLUB IN PARADES OR AT COMMUNITY EVENTS
- 98) COLLECT USED BOOKS/MAGAZINES FOR NURSING HOMES
- 99) COLLECT DISCARDED HEARING AIDS FOR REFURBISHING
- 100) SPONSOR AIDS AWARENESS LITERATURE
- 101) PROVIDE EMERGENCY RELIEF ASSISTANCE IN DISASTERS
- 102) BUILD A FRISBEE GOLF COURSE
- 103) SPONSOR A FREE CONCERT IN THE PARK
- 104) SPONSOR A TERRIBLE TWISTERS SHOW
- 105) BUILD A COMMUNITY CENTER
- 106) SPONSOR SCOUT TROOPS
- 107) SPONSOR AN ALCOHOL AWARENESS PROGRAM

REDISTRICTING
USA/CANADA FORUM
SEPTEMBER, 2008

Put on by PID Gary Fry

Some points that were made:

- If your district gets too small you cannot elect a governor the Int'l Board must appoint.
- Too many districts are way too big based on geography. Many Lions in attendance told stories of traveling over 5-6 hours to get to a club.
- Too small a district and too few clubs shrink the pool of Lions to be considered for ZC & cabinet appointments.

There were too many stories of failed redistricting in Florida, Georgia, Iowa, & many others. They did the work but just brought the districts back into compliance and a couple of years later some of the new districts were again below minimum.

They also pointed out that when you redistrict a multiple district region that every district is considered a new district in the eyes of International and the treasury must be equitably distributed. In other words if we lost 10% of our clubs we would need to send off 10% of our accumulated funds.

The bottom line was to forget to redistrict in shrink the number of districts to get back to compliance. It would be smarter to make special efforts in the areas that are too small to increase the membership and leave the rest of the districts alone.

Some time was spent on big districts but I do not think anybody in the room wanted to discuss this reason to redistrict.