

# 37S Newsletter

District Governor Jim Johnke

March 2008

## Wool Gatherings from DG Jim (Spring)

Another busy month has passed very quickly. Some of the highlights of the past month have included: Club visits to Bozeman where I visited four clubs--Gallatin Empire, Sourdough, Sweet Pea, and Bozeman. I also traveled to Belgrade, Big Timber, Ennis, Dillon, Grass Range, Choteau, Shepherd, Laurel and Joliet. Club visits are so rewarding for me and all have been wonderful hosts. I am amazed at all of the projects that are happening in District 37-S along with the creative ways clubs are using to raise funds. Let's all put our projects and fund raising ideas on the website.

Dee and I also attended the 37-0 Convention at Kananaskis, Canada, (east of Calgary) on the first weekend in March. The Canadian Rockies are beautiful, and the convention was held in a picturesque ski lodge.

At home on the ranch, calving is about complete and I have also been busy with lambing. By April 10, the lambing should be finished.

Our younger daughter, Linda, has been living in Germany since September and was recently married to a very nice German young man. The two of them stopped in for a visit last summer so we could meet him. We have known for several months that her visa would be expiring and that she needed to marry or get a job in order to stay there. She is still looking for the job. (Sounds like something from a romantic movie.) We could not be there for the wedding, so we will have a wedding celebration in Montana at a later date.

Our older daughter Tracy and her husband, Aaron, are expecting a baby boy in May. They live in Washington, D.C. so we plan on visiting there in June.

David is busy in Havre with the High School Bands and he is preparing to host the district music festival in April.

P.S. Remember to keep inviting people to join this great organization. It is such a great way for everyone to give back to our communities.

Happy Lions Trails,  
DG Jim

## What's Happening in Your Club

Billings Heights Club Report  
By Lion Gay Ziler

Great things are happening in the Billings Heights Club as we accepted the challenge to help build a Habitat for Humanity home in 2009. With a proposed grant from Lions Clubs International we will be committed to monies or in-kind contributions of \$17,500.00. So far we have received commitments of approximately \$5000.00 of in-kind help from persons both within and outside the club.

We are looking for volunteer help from anyone who has the skills and time to help us. Right now, we would especially need a volunteer plumber who could commit to helping us.

A letter has been sent to all Montana Lions Clubs asking them to consider a contribution of \$100.00 or more for the next two years. It is exciting to hear from some of the clubs of their willingness to help. Thanks a lot.

The Heights Lions played cupid on Valentine's Day by volunteering to deliver flowers for Gainan's Nursery. Lion Mick Gainan came up with the idea and made it well worth our while. The participating Lions enjoy this labor of "Love" and earned a healthy donation to the Club.



Dear Fellow Lions,

I would like to update you on recent news in LCIF. I ask that you share this information with your club and district to help promote LCIF.

## **CSFII Surpasses Goal**

Campaign SightFirst II has surpassed the \$150 million minimum goal. On Worldwide Report Day February 20, National and Multi-National Coordinators' telephone calls and reports revealed that Lions have raised more than US\$157.9 million for CSFII. With four months remaining, Lions are now looking ahead to the additional challenge goal and helping ensure the future of SightFirst through continued and expanded efforts to eliminate preventable blindness worldwide. Lions' support of CSFII is crucial in the remaining months. Visit the [CSFII Web site](#) for more information on the campaign and fundraising ideas.

## **LCIF #1 NGO Ads Available**

**In a special report released in July, LCIF was ranked the number one non-governmental organization worldwide. From 34 global organizations, LCIF came in first. As a result of the ranking, LCIF has received a great deal of media coverage and has also placed special ads in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and several other nationwide daily newspapers around the world. These ads are available to [download online](#) for Lions to use in their local newspapers as well. To localize the information, simply add a local telephone number and club Web site. The [press release](#) of this announcement is also online to share with your local media.**

## **Milestone in Trachoma Treatments**

LCIF reached a major milestone in trachoma treatments January 23 when LCIF Chairperson Jimmy Ross distributed the 10 millionth dose of azithromycin (Zithromax®) to 16-year-old Messeleche Tilahun. The antibiotic, donated by Pfizer Inc, is a main strategy in the fight against the blinding disease in poor, rural areas. Messeleche lives in the Awi Zone in Ethiopia, the most trachoma-endemic part of the country, where an estimated 18 million are at risk. Representatives from The Carter Center, Lions clubs of Ethiopia, Pfizer, the national trachoma program, government of Ethiopia, and other partner organizations joined the celebration and are a part of the coalition working toward elimination of trachoma in the region by 2012. Lions in Ethiopia have been integral to achieving remarkable results in the country. The 10 millionth dose comes after just 18 months of full scale intervention and points toward meeting the elimination target date. Through SightFirst, LCIF has awarded numerous grants for [trachoma control](#), outreach and training projects in Ethiopia and elsewhere in Africa.

## **SightFirst Grants Awarded**

The SightFirst Advisory Committee Meeting awarded nine grants at its January meeting. This included grant funding to continue the childhood blindness project with the World Health Organization, which has established 30 need-based centers around the world. Other grants included cataract surgery campaigns, upgrading a Lions eye hospital and establishing and equipping a teaching hospital. A total of US\$9,554,378 was awarded, US\$3,580,708 of which represents grants from undesignated SightFirst funds. The full list is available online.

## **Grants Approved for Lions Quest**

Seven grants totaling US\$364,872 were approved at the January Lions Quest Advisory Meeting. The grants enable Lions Quest programs to expand in countries currently participating in the program or to begin the program in new countries. Japan, Kenya, Canada and Turkey received grants to implement and expand the program. Pakistan and Sri Lanka became the newest countries to launch the program. The full list of approved grants is online.

## **Lions Join Coalition**

Lions Clubs International has joined the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) as a sustaining member and partner to enhance the work of local communities and help youth resist alcohol and other drugs. Lions will support their mission to build stronger capacity for anti-drug efforts through the 5,000 community coalitions nationwide. Through Lions Quest, Lions can teach youth how to avoid drugs and make responsible decisions. A letter announcing the partnership was sent to the 500 other organizations in the coalition encouraging these organizations and communities to work with their local Lions club on drug-free programs. LCIF also had a booth at CADCA's annual convention this month, the largest training conference in the U.S. for community coalition activists and substance abuse professionals.

### New Giving Publication

A new publication, ForSight in Gift Planning, is available to those Lions wishing to increase their support to LCIF. It provides an overview of various donation programs, news updates and stories of those helped through Lions' contributions. The publication is available online or by contacting LCIF Development Staff.

Serving through LCIF,

Jimmy M. Ross  
Chairperson, LCIF

### Winnett Playground

During a recent 37S Cabinet Meeting at the Ronald McDonald House in Billings, the director of the house held a conversation with our district leaders about the Ronald McDonald charities. This is a national organization that helps out with projects that a community may not have the financial means to complete. D.G. Johnke listened carefully and thought that this would indeed fit into the Winnett community. With D.G Jim's help and the community leaders they were successful in obtaining \$22000.00 in playground equipment for their community.

Director Lenette Kosovich from the Ronald McDonald House presented the check to the community this winter. Lenette is no stranger to Lions and Lions projects. She is a Melvin Jones Fellow and daughter of PDG Leonard Mapston.

Kudos to District Governor Jim Johnke.



### MD37S Web Page

**If you get e-mail on your computer, you can view the great web page constructed by Lion Jerry Legate. On this page you can view not only this newsletter, but all the past issues and all of the newsletters from each of the Districts. You have links that you can connect to LCI, MD, and various sub-organizations of the Lions. A click of a mouse can save the district about 50 cents in mailing and labeling cost per member. We can do better things with our money than send out newsletters to people that don't even read them.**

The Web Address is: [md37s.billingslions.org](http://md37s.billingslions.org)  
Share your club's projects and fund raising ideas. E-mail Jerry Leggate at [jnleggate@yahoo.com](mailto:jnleggate@yahoo.com) and he will get your items on the District Web Page. I know there many clubs that do an outstanding job in their communities without any recognition. It is about time you blew your own horn.



## Coming Events

- Cabinet Meeting: April 26, 2008  
11:30AM to 4:00 PM  
Ronald McDonald House, 1444 N 30<sup>th</sup>  
Billings, (West of St Vincent's Hosp.)  
LUNCH at 12:00 Noon
- Club Officers Reports (PU101) due in  
April to International and to the District  
Governor. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT You  
do this on time!!!!
- Pledges to ST Baldrick Foundation to  
have DG Jim's head shaved
- MD37 Convention May 2-3 2008 at  
Kananaska , Alberta.
- DG Jim's Birthday April 22 No Gifts  
please just money.

A girl was visiting her blonde friend, who had acquired two new dogs, and asked her what their names were.

The blonde responded by saying that one was named Rolex and one was named Timex.

Her friend said, "Whoever heard of someone naming dogs like that?"

"HELLLOOOOOOO...", answered the blond. "They're watch dogs!"

### St. Baldrick's Foundation

[www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org) 1-888-899-BALD

The mission of the St. Baldrick's Foundation is to raise awareness and funds to cure kids' cancer by supporting cancer research and fellowships.

The Belgrade Lions Club has challenged DG Jim to shave his head for kids. He has accepted the challenge on condition that at least \$2,000 is pledged. Jim says he can't remember ever having a crew cut. He doesn't like short hair on himself, so shaving his head is a big stretch for him.

Turn in your pledges in to Belgrade Lions or Winnett Lions. If the goal of \$2,000 or more is reached Jim will shave his head at the Cabinet Meeting (April 26) at approximately 4:00 p.m. Turn in your pledges on line or to the following people:

Belgrade Lions contact: David McGoldrick  
(406) 586-2344 [david\\_mcg@bresnan.net](mailto:david_mcg@bresnan.net)

Winnett Lions contacts: Luann Knutson (406)  
429-6361 [russlu@midrivers.com](mailto:russlu@midrivers.com)  
Ken Carrell (406) 429-  
2911

