



The Missouri Lion

Multiple District 26

Volume 15

Number 3

May 2012

Loving Individuals Offering Needed Services

Lions Clubs International Declares June 1st "Helen Keller Day"

Helen Keller Adams was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama on June 27, 1880. She was a healthy normal child until she developed a fever at the age of 18 months. This left Helen blind, deaf and mute. At the age of 6, Helen learned sign language and was taught to read **Braille** by Anne Mansfield Sullivan, her teacher from the Perkins School for the Blind. She later learned to speak at the age of 10 when she was taught by Sarah Fuller a speech teacher from the Horace Mann School.



Helen Keller Adams

June 27, 1880 –

June 1, 1968

Helen Keller Adams has many significant lifetime accomplishments never letting her lack of vision stop her from fulfilling her dreams. In 1925 she attended the Lions Clubs International Convention and challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness".

In 1971, the Board of Directors of Lions Club International declared June 1st would be remembered as Helen Keller Day. June 1st, 2012 will mark the 41st Anniversary of "Helen Keller Day".

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved."

[Helen Keller](#)

The Alabama State Quarter: A “Tribute to Helen Keller”

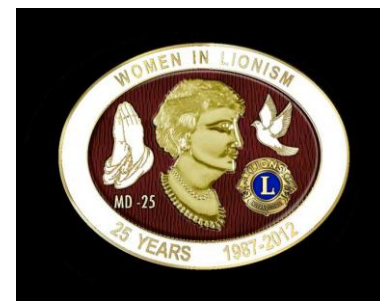
The Alabama commemorative state Quarter was the 22nd quarter to be released in the U.S. Mint's 50 State Quarters™ Program and the second to be released in 2003. The US Treasury Department released newly minted quarters in the order in which each state was admitted to the Union, Alabama was the 22nd state on December 14, 1819

Educators in the state of Alabama asked students to exercise their creativity and encouraged them to research Alabama's history to find a person worthy of representing their state on the new quarter. By July 2002, Helen Keller was selected to represent Alabama on its commemorative state quarter. Governor Don Siegelman remarked, "Helen Keller symbolizes the courage of a people who've been through civil war and civil rights. She is a visible reminder of the importance of education and determination, and the importance of having a good teacher."



The theme of the design centers around the "Spirit of Courage" and is represented by Helen Keller, the Tusculumbia native who lost her sight and hearing to childhood meningitis when only 18 months old. With the help of her companion and teacher, Anne Sullivan, the "Spirit of Courage" allowed Helen Keller to overcome these setbacks, to graduate from Radcliffe College, and to become an internationally known educator and writer. The quarter features a likeness of Helen Keller that was selected by her great-great-niece, Keller Johnson-Thompson and other family members. She is seated, reading a book in Braille. The slogan, "Spirit of Courage" is displayed on a banner below Helen Keller's image. Her name is reproduced in Braille. Helen Keller is framed by Southern Longleaf Pine branches (Alabama's official state tree) and Camellias (Alabama's official state flower).

Helen Keller Pins: Women In Lionism 25 Years 1987-2012



Lionism recognizes the importance of female Lions and the loyal service they provide to their clubs, districts and projects. In 1987 women officially became part of the Lion Club International Organization with their male counterparts. The pin above celebrates the past 25 years women have been part of the Lions Club International Organization.

To order contact PDG Charlie Haffner (574-457-3054) or ahaffner@kconline.com

In This Issue.....

Lions Clubs International Declares June 1 st “Helen Keller Day”	pg. 1
The Alabama State Quarter: A “ Tribute to Helen Keller”	pg. 2
Helen Keller Pins: Women in Lionism 25 Years 1987-2012.....	pg. 2
<i>In This issue</i>	pg. 3
Women Celebrate Quarter Century in Lionism: 1987-2012	pg. 3
Message from International Director Candidate Donal W. Knipp	pg. 4
Missouri Lions Calendar/ International Convention Schedule	pg. 5
2011-2012 Lions Clubs Missouri State Peace Poster Winner	pg. 6
2012 – 2013 Lions International peace Poster Contest For Youth.....	pg. 7-8
36 th Annual USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum.....	pg. 9-10
2012 Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute Program	pg. 11
Maryville, Lions Lion’s Tree Planting Project... ..	pg. 11-12
2012 Missouri Lions All-State Band	pg. 13
Deadline for Submitting Articles for August Issue of the Missouri Lion	pg. 13
Missouri Lions All-Star Football Players Visit Veterans at Warrensburg.....	pg. 14
Wentzville Lions Club Celebrates 50 th Anniversary	pg. 15
Cornea Transplant Enhances Recipient’s Quality of Life	pg. 16
How Eye Care Assistance Saves Sight in your Community	pg. 17
Help in Every District	pg.18
Campaign to Register 20 Million New Organ Donors in 2012	pg. 19
Get Social With the Foundation and Eye Bank	pg. 20
Waiver Form for Printed copy of the Missouri Lion bulletin.....	pg.21

Women Celebrate Quarter Century in Lionism: 1987-2012

The distinguished history of Lions Clubs International forms the foundation for nearly everything Lions Clubs do today. From our humble beginnings to our commitment to sight initiatives, there is a significant basis for all our humanitarian services. Knowing and understanding our history gives us perspective and helps keep our dedication for community service thriving.

A significant event in the association’s history occurred in 1987, when Lions Clubs International became one of the first service club organizations to admit women as members. The first female was admitted on July 4, 1987. Today worldwide women membership makes up 19.9% of all Lions.

Since 1987, many women have gone on to become great leaders for Lions Clubs International. Louise Colombani of France was the first District Governor in 1991. The first female International Director was Nilofar Bakhtiar of Pakistan in 1991.

A Message from International Director Candidate Donal W. Knipp

I humbly thank you, the Lions of Missouri, for your confidence, support and encouragement as I represent you in Busan, Korea as your endorsed candidate for International Director. I pledge to you that I will support the values and programs we believe in as Lions.

In securing the endorsement and support of the Missouri Lions, Lion Betty and I met with many Lions around the state, greeting old friends and making even more new friends. We enjoyed every visit to Lions clubs, district cabinet meetings and district and state conventions. Talking with so many Lions and understanding their motivation and desire to serve provide us with lasting memories and a true appreciation of the unselfishness of Lions.

I have developed a strong passion for service in my 44 years as a Lion. Lion's service has made an impact in our communities locally, nationally and worldwide. Serving as International Director will allow me to continue to grow as a Lion and as a person. My desire is to encourage others about not only the needs in our communities but also around the world.

We perform many miracles in our clubs; working together to meet the needs of our fellow man. I ask that you join with me in renewing our commitment to service and strive to bring new members into our clubs as we serve others.

New members are the lifeblood of our organization. Their new ideas, energy and enthusiasm will only make us stronger. This past year, I had the privilege of helping canvas for new clubs in Rockport and Columbia. Working with local Lions, we were successful in spreading the Lions spirit through these communities. As a result, two new clubs are chartered and serving their towns. I was also honored to participate in the Christian County Lions Charter Celebration. The small part I played in the new clubs has been very exhilarating and rewarding. I am excited about their path of service to others.

Lion Betty and I thank you and look forward to the unique opportunity to serve and learn from great Lions also dedicated to service. We thank you for this opportunity to represent you, the Great Lions of Missouri.

Your support and encouragement have given us a great start on our journey. Our next step is to actively campaign for the position of International Director at the Lions Clubs International Convention in Busan, Korea in June. We have a contingent making the trip to assist in our campaign. If you are attending the convention, I would appreciate your help as well.

PDG Donal and Betty Knipp



2012 Calendar Missouri Lions/International convention Schedule

Date	Event	Location
April 13-14, 2012	Mid South VDG Visit	Memphis, Tennessee
April 20-22, 2012	State Convention	Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO
April 19,& 22, 2012	Council of Governors Mtg.	Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO
June ?, 2012	Budget Meeting	State Office, Jefferson City, MO
June 24-July 8, 2012	MO All State Band Camp/Trip	Fort Leonard Wood, MO Rapid City, SD/Colorado Springs, CO
July 13-15, 2012	Great Plains Lions Leadership	Crete, Nebraska
July 20, 2012	Football Banquet	Warrensburg, Missouri
July 21, 2012	Council of Governors Meeting	Warrensburg, Missouri
July 21, 2012	Football Game	Warrensburg, Missouri
August (TBD), 2012	Leader Dog Visit 1 st VDG	Rochester, Michigan
August (TBD), 2012	LWSB	Little Rock, Arkansas
Sept. 13 – 15, 2012	USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum	Tampa Bay, Florida
October 27, 2012	Council of Governors Meeting	Country Club Hotel, Lake Ozark, MO
Feb. 8 - 9 , 2013	Mid Winter Forum**	TBA
April 26-28, 2013	Missouri Lions State Convention	Kansas City, MO
June 22-26, 2012	International Convention	Busan, Korea
July 5-9, 2013	International Convention	Hamburg, Germany
July 4-8, 2014	International Convention	Toronto, Canada
June 26-30, 2015	International Convention	Honolulu, Hawaii
June 24-28, 2016	International Convention	Fukuoka, Japan
June 30-July 4, 2017	International Convention	Chicago, Illinois*

*** This will be the centennial celebration in the city where Lions Clubs started in 1917.**

TBA To Be Announced

**** The Global Leadership Team (GLT) is currently planning the 2013 Mid Winter Forum, they need input to help select the location for this Lions Club event. If you attended the 2012 Mid Winter Forum in Branson, Missouri I am sure you can tell all your fellow Lion's how great this event was and if they did not attend they missed a great opportunity to broaden their Leadership skills. Mark your calendars and plan on attending the 2013 Mid Winter Forum.**

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do". [Helen Keller](#)

2011-2012 Lions Clubs Missouri State Peace Poster Winner

Each year Missouri Lions Clubs sponsor the Lions International peace Poster Contest in schools and youth groups throughout the state. The theme selected for the 2011-2012 annual contest was **“Children Know Peace”**. Youth ages 11, 12 or 13 on November 15th were eligible to participate. Girls and boys throughout Missouri expressed their visions of **“Children Know Peace”** in creative art displays for the Peace Poster Contest. These participants used a variety of art mediums, including charcoals, crayons, pencils and paint to express this year’s theme. The final art work is representative of the young artist’s life experiences and culture.

Peace Poster entries are first selected at the local Lions Club level. Members of the sponsoring Lions Club select the Peace Poster which best represents the Contest Theme for the current year. After selection at the local Lions Club level, the youth advances to the District level competition. Again the Peace Poster which most closely represents the Lions Club International Theme is selected to advance to the state level competition. Each selected District Peace Poster then competes for Missouri State Peace Poster Winner. Missouri has 7 separate Districts, so in theory seven youth could compete for this title.

This year’s Missouri State Peace Poster was submitted by a young lady from Carl Junction, Missouri. Chase Boyd, a seventh grader, was sponsored by the Carl Junction Lions Club in District M6. After being selected to represent Missouri Lions, Chase’s Peace Poster was then sent on to the International competition where she competed with children from more than 100 countries. The picture below is her representation of **“Children Know Peace”** for the 2011-2012 Lions International Peace Poster Contest.



“I do not want the peace which passeth understanding, I want the understanding which bringeth peace.”
[Helen Keller](#)

2012-2013 Lions International Peace Poster Contest for Youth

For the last 25 years students, ages 11,12,or 13 by November of the current Peace Poster Competition are eligible to participate in this Lions Club International Contest. Lions Clubs throughout the world reach out to local schools and youth groups to encourage young people to express their visions of peace. Every year the Peace Poster Contest theme incorporates “peace”. The theme selected by Lions Club International for the 2012-2013 Annual Peace Poster Contest is “Imagine Peace”.

Now is the time to contact local schools or youth groups to encourage them to participate in this contest. Twenty four finalists are selected each year, this represents the work of more than 350,000 youth worldwide. Each poster is judged on originality, artistic merit and expression of the theme. Selected posters advance through different levels of judging until one poster is selected as the grand prize winner.

The 2011-2012 International Peace Poster Winner

Artist: Trisha Co Reyes, 13 years old from the Philippines



Contact Lions Clubs International Public Relations Department (630-203-3812) to obtain a brochure, contest rules and deadlines.

Ordering Peace Poster Contest Kits

Lions clubs interested in sponsoring the Lions International Peace Poster Contest can order a Peace Poster Contest kit (PPK-1) from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters. The cost of the kit is US\$10.95 plus shipping, handling and applicable taxes. The kit is available in all 11 of our official languages. Lions clubs must purchase a kit for each contest sponsored. Each kit contains:

- **Official Club Contest Guide and Rules**
- **Official School or Youth Group Contest Guide and Rules**
- **Participant Flyer** to duplicate and give to participating students to take home
- **Sticker** to place on back of winning poster
- **Certificates** for contest winner and school or youth group

You can order kits from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters from January 15 to October 1. To order a kit, call Club Supplies Sales at (630) 571-5466. To order online, go to [Club Supplies](#) (Item Search: Peace Poster Kit). [You can also download the order form.](#)

Please [review contest rules](#) and order kits as soon as possible to guarantee sufficient time for a well-planned contest. For orders within the United States, please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

Peace Poster Contest Deadlines

Entries not meeting deadlines will be disqualified.

- **January 15:** Kits go on sale from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters.
- **October 1:** Deadline to purchase kits from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters.
- **November 15:** Postmark deadline for a club to send one winning poster (per contest sponsored) to the district governor.
- **December 1:** Postmark deadline for a Governor to send one winning district poster to multiple district council chairperson.
- **December 1:** Postmark deadline for a Governor not belonging to a multiple district to send one winning poster to the Public Relations Department at International Headquarters.
- **December 1:** Postmark deadline for a Club not belonging to a district to send one winning entry to the Public Relations Department at International Headquarters.
- **December 15:** Postmark deadline for the multiple district council chairperson to send one winning poster to the Public Relations Department at International Headquarters.
- **February 1:** International winners notified on or before this date.

“Strike against war, for without you no battles can be fought!”

[Helen Keller](#)



36th Annual USA/CANADA Lions Leadership Forum
September 13-15, 2012
Tampa Bay, Florida

The USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum is for any Lion who wants to enhance their leadership skills in an environment filled with non-stop learning and fun. Lions from all over the United States and Canada will be traveling to Tampa Bay, Florida during September 13 – 15, 2012 to take advantage of the Lions Leadership Forum Seminars and fellowship. The seminars presented at the Leadership Forum help prepare Lions for specific roles in our Lions Organization. This event is a great opportunity for any Lion to be part of a wonderful learning experience and meet other Lions.

Lions attending the USA/Canada Forum in Tampa Bay will have an opportunity to meet Wayne Madden the 2012-2013 Lions Clubs International President and listen as he speaks about his Presidential Program "A World of Service".

The leadership Forum is packed with over 70 seminars in 2 ½ days, a program of this magnitude makes it difficult to decide which topics will benefit the Lion attending this event the most. The seminars range from Motivational speakers, Lions Club International displays and programs, and vendors who provide a variety of services or special items for sale. The events and seminars for this year's USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum are being held in the Tampa Convention Center, which is a short walk from all the designated hotels.

Tampa Bay, Florida is a great place for a family vacation and Lions can find a long list of fun activities to enjoy with their families. Some possible activities might include Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, Busch Gardens and Big Cat Rescue or Dinosaur World. Disney World, a fun place for kids of all ages, is located approximately 45 minutes away from

Tampa Bay. Families wanting to escape before or after the USA/Canada Forum can check out the various cruise packages at following website:

www.usacanadalionsforum.org

USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Mission Statement:

Mission Statement



To develop leaders, motivate and educate attendees, provide an open exchange of ideas, and support programs and goals of Lions Clubs International.

Lions are encouraged to visit the website for additional information about the Seminars for the 2012 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. Hotel or RV Parks are listed on the 2012 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Registration Form. The reverse side of the registration form contains a list of 72 Seminars to be presented at the Forum and asks Lions to choose the 7 sessions which they are most likely to attend. Any Lion wishing to attend the USA/Canada Forum can register online at the official website listed above. If preferred registration hard copy registrations may be mailed to the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum at the following address:

**Registrar Geri Drabek
USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum
P.O. Box 697
Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717-0697
(605) 723-4007
(605) 723-4008 (Fax)
forum@spe.midco.net**

FUTURE USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forums

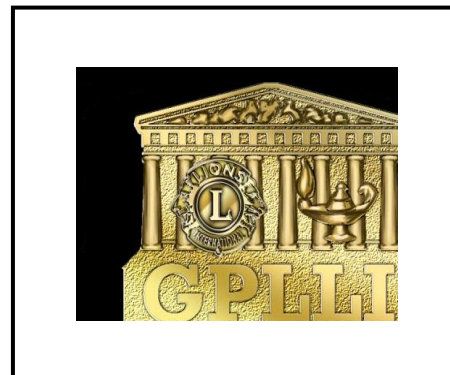
**September 13 – 15, 2012 –Tampa, Florida
September 19 – 21, 2013 – Overland Park, Kansas
September 18 – 20, 2014 – Puerto Rico
2015 – Grand Rapids, Michigan**

Note: USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum registration fees will increase on June 1st and again on August 1st, register early to avoid additional meeting costs.

2012 Great Plains Leadership Institute (GPLLI)

Lions still have time to register for the 2012 Great Plains Leadership Forum. Join your fellow Lions at Doane College located in Crete, Nebraska, July 13th – 15th, 2012. The program will provide sessions specifically developed to advance your Leadership skills. Outstanding presenters from different Districts will provide you with learning modules on communication skills, team building, delegation, management of change, conflict management, project management, diversity, motivation, public speaking, and leading effective meetings.

The registration fee for the 2012 GPLLI session is \$130 per student if made by May 31, 2012 and will increase to \$ 145 on June 1, 2012. The fee includes 7 meals, all Institute costs and dormitory rooms at the College with double occupancy (limited rooms are available for single occupancy at an additional cost of \$30 per student).



It's possible your District may have funds available to assist in the tuition cost as well. If you are interested in attending or would like further information about the 2012 GPLLI, please contact your District Governor or your District GLT (Global Leadership Team) Coordinator. More information along with the application can be viewed on line at www.missourilions.com located under "Training".



Maryville Lions Club Project: Re-Leaf



The International Association of Lions Clubs President, Wing-Kun Tam has quoted a Chinese proverb which advises us to keep a green tree in our hearts and perhaps a singing bird will come.

From July 1, 2011 to March 1, 2012 Lions from around the world have help plant 6,786,015 trees. The original goal was 1,000,000 trees.

President Tam states that Lions have been able to plant as many trees as we have because of our numerous partnerships with several groups around the world. Lions in small towns and big cities in many nations are similarly working with others to beautify their neighborhoods.

The two Lions Clubs in Maryville, Missouri decided to initiate Project Re-Leaf. Representatives from the two Maryville Lions Clubs, Northwest Missouri State University and Maryville Parks and Recreation first met in November, 2011 to plan the project. Planting date was set for April 14, 2012. The goal was set to plant 200 trees in the nine city parks, on the campus of Northwest Missouri State University as well as on the grounds of Maryville High School, Maryville Middle School, and St. Gregory's School. Maryville had experienced the loss of many trees over the past five years due to wind, hail, and ice storms.

Funding to purchase the trees from the Forrest Keeling Nursery, Elsberry, Missouri was provided by contributions from the two Lions Clubs, various business people and a grant that was initiated by the NWMSU Students In Free Enterprise organization.

After an official proclamation was read by Maryville Mayor Glenn Jonagan on the morning of April 14th, team leaders and workers dispatched to various locations and the project became a reality.

Below: Sorting 200 Trees
Right: NWMSU Students
plant trees at the city parks



Right: Students plant at
St. Gregory's School



Left: Maryville
Mayor reads official
proclamation



Maryville Lions Club Project Re-Leaf

April 14, 2012

2012 Missouri Lions All-State Band



Your Invited to the “Farewell Concert”

Where: Fort Leonard Wood, MO

When: June 28th, 2012 at 7:00 PM

Lions across the state of Missouri are invited to come to the “Farewell Concert” given by the 2012 Missouri Lions All-State Band at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. After four days of practicing the group is ready to perform for an audience. This is the perfect send-off for our All-State band performers as they get ready to depart on their adventure across the United States.

On June 29th the band will have lunch with the Clarksdale Lions Club and will give a concert at 6:00 PM at the St. Joseph Summer Nights Music Festival. Saturday morning it is back on the bus as they travel to Cameron to give a performance at the city’s Veteran’s Home at 2:00 PM.

Members of the Missouri All-State band will continue their trip to Rapid City, SD for a concert and sightseeing at Mount Rushmore and other places in the area. From there the All-State band performers will travel to Colorado Springs, CO where they will tour the Air Force Academy and perform a concert.

The performers will return back to Missouri on Sunday July 8th 2012.

Information for Publication in *the Missouri Lion*

Anyone wishing to submit an article for publication in the Missouri Lion but needs some assistance in writing the article can submit the basics of the article such as:

Who, What, When, Where, Why, Specific Details to be included in the article and your contact information. After a draft has been written, you will receive a copy for review. Please review or edit the draft, when it meets your approval it will be added to the Missouri Lion bulletin.

Send basic information by e-mail to newsletter@missourilions.org

Paper copies of the above information can be sent to the editor see page 20.

Deadline for article submission for the August 2012 Issue is July 10th, 2012

Submission of an article or subject material before the printed submission date does not guarantee the topic will be published in any edition

the Missouri Lion editor

Missouri Lions All-Star Football Players visit Veterans at Warrensburg

Football players for the Annual Missouri Lions All-Star Football Teams arrive early in the summer in Warrensburg, Missouri for practice prior to their big game each year. Both Teams spend many hours on the playing field as they prepare for the big playoff game which is July 21st this year. This year's game will be no different from those of the past, if they want to win each Team must work together, but there are no losers in this Game. Although one team may score the most points, they are all playing to help the Missouri Lions raise funds for the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation. This event offers many players a chance of a lifetime to become a major league Football Player as college or professional scouts watch them play the game.

All work and no play is not the key to winning a Football game, the players need some fun time activities for relaxation. One of these fun time activities includes a visit to the Warrensburg Veterans Home to spend time with the residents of the 200-bed skilled nursing facility. The Football Players listen to the stories the Veterans tell about their many tours of duty for our country in foreign lands or maybe even here within the United States. It is difficult to say who has more fun during this visit, the players or the Veterans. This interchange provides a high level of community service for our young football players which everyone enjoys.



Lions across the state are reminded to come to the Missouri Lions All-Star Football Game in Warrensburg, Missouri on July 21, 2012. Come support our young players.

The prices are: Banquet (Student union Bldg.) July 20, 2012

(reservations required for the Banquet)

All-Star Football Game July 21, 2012 (Game starts at 6 & P.M.)

Adults at the Gate	\$10.00	Advance Ticket	\$7.00
Students at the Gate	\$ 5.00	Advance Ticket	\$3.00

"Life is an exciting business, and most exciting when it is lived for others."

[Helen Keller](#)

Wentzville Lions Club Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Wentzville Lions Club celebrated the 50 year Anniversary of the club charter on March 31, 2012. The event was held at Bear Creek Golf Club with the featured speaker

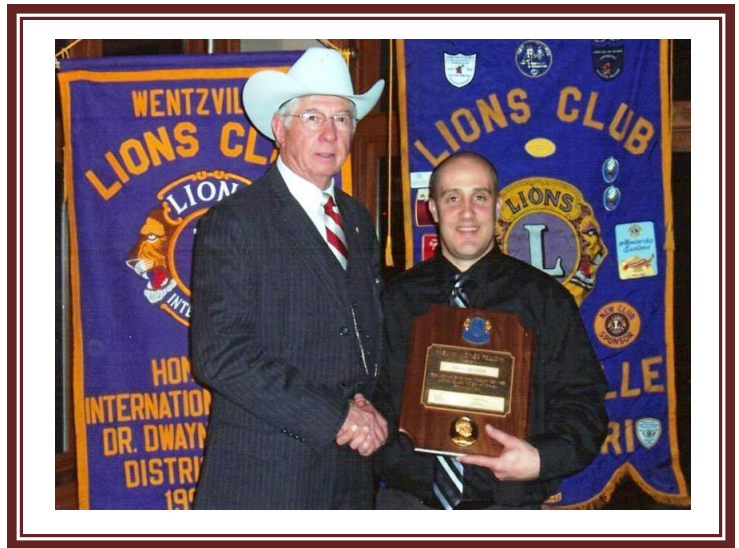
being Past International President Jimmy Ross from Quitaque, Texas. Over 100 Lions and guests attended the celebration. In the audience was Past International Director Bob Browning and Lion Jo Ellen from Pineville, West Virginia, Past International Director Leland Kolkmeier and Lion Marcia from Wellington, MO, District Governor Lyn Porterfield and Past Council chairperson Pat Porterfield, 2 other council chairpersons and 12 past district governors. The candidate for International Director Past District Governor Donal Knipp and his wife Lion Betty from Auxvasse, MO were also in attendance.

Past President Ross captivated the group with his message and challenge for the future to the Wentzville Club.

International Presidential Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Lion Orville Kuhlmann, the only charter member still active in the club and Lion Charles Poe. Melvin Jones Fellowships were bestowed to club President Lion Dave Becker and Immediate Past Club President Lion Justin Huryat by Past President Ross.

Club President Dave Becker presented 3 Club President's awards for service to the Wentzville club, Lion Jake Evans, club treasurer, Lion Marshall Featherston and Lion Charles McNealy. Past International President Ross then inducted 2 new members, David and Brad Garrett, into the club and charged their sponsor, Lee Garrett, with their future commitment to Lionism.

President Dave Becker receives Melvin Jones Fellowship Award from Past International President Ross



A high light of the evening was the presentation during the dinner hour by "Up Tempo" a choral group from Timberland High School under the direction of Ms. Ronda Fields.

The Wentzville Lions would like to take the occasion of their 50th Anniversary of service to the community and to the world to thank all who have supported the Wentzville Lions Club in so many ways. We promise to continue living our International motto "WE SERVE" in the coming years.

"Instead of comparing our lot with that of those who are more fortunate than we are, we should compare it with the lot of the great majority of our fellow men. It then appears that we are among the privileged". [Helen Keller](#)

Cornea Transplant Enhances Recipient's Quality of Life



Like many individuals suffering from Fuchs' dystrophy, a degenerative disease of the cornea, Jackie of Raytown, Mo. was able to adapt her life around her condition. But as the disease progressed and her ability to participate in her favorite activities began to suffer, Jackie knew a cornea transplant would be the only way to restore her lost vision.

Said Jackie, "I pretty much quit driving at night because the glare of the lights distracted me. I had problems with embroidery at times, especially cross stitch, and I would notice after I finished something that I had jumped crosses."

Upon her ophthalmologist's suggestion, Jackie met with a cornea specialist who performed a transplant on her right eye with tissue from Heartland Lions Eye Banks. After a successful surgery, Jackie was amazed how quickly her vision began to return. "The day after the surgery, when the nurse took the patch off my eye, I said, 'I can see you!' The doctor was thrilled."

Today, Jackie can read without her glasses as well as embroider and quilt with no difficulties. She is also able to drive at night again, which allows her to attend her 17-year-old grandson's basketball games and take her granddaughters to their gymnastics classes.

Because of her donor family's generous decision to give the gift of sight, Jackie continues to pay it forward by encouraging others to pledge to become eye donors by joining the Missouri donor registry at www.donatelifemissouri.com.

"Please, please register. It's one transplant that is pretty successful, and there is nothing greater than the gift of sight. People don't realize how terrifying it can be to think you might be going blind."



"All the world is full of suffering. It is also full of overcoming."

[Helen Keller](#)

How Eye Care Assistance Saves Sight in Your Community

ECA recipient resumes job hunt after transplant

Edwin of Springfield, Mo. had hit a roadblock in his life.

On April 15, 2011, he woke up with a dark spot in his vision. As the day went on, it grew progressively worse to the point he had lost 2/3 of his sight in his left eye by the evening. The next day, it was discovered that Edwin had a detached retina, and he underwent emergency surgery.

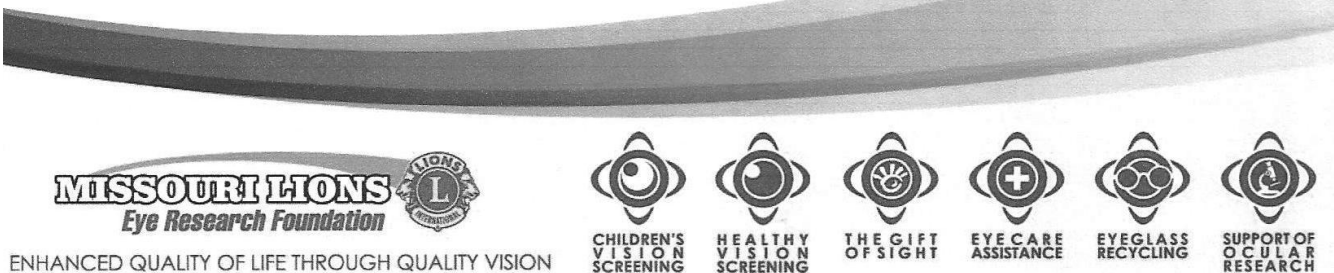
Edwin's recovery took longer than expected, and consequently, he lost his job around the same time. Even more unfortunate, his retinal surgery caused a cataract to appear prematurely. As someone who worked with computers, Edwin needed his vision to return to his career, but didn't have the insurance or the means to pay for a cataracts surgery.

After searching for an organization that could assist with surgery costs, Edwin was eventually led to the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation's Eye Care Assistance (ECA) program. Edwin's case met the ECA guidelines for coverage, and within six weeks of submitting his application, he was receiving the sight-saving surgery needed to remove cataracts in both eyes and to implant a lens to correct his nearsightedness.

Today, Edwin's vision has considerably improved, "In my right eye, I can see 20/25 after my lens implant and cataract surgery. In my left eye, I am 20/60 because of a swollen macula which is still giving me issues, but I am on drops to see if the swelling will go down. The peripheral vision in my left eye is gone, and I still have lower vision problems I may never recover from, but at least I can see!"

Thanks in part to the ECA program, the support of the Foundation's financial contributors, and the skill of his eye surgeon, Edwin is well on the road to recovery. He is actively seeking employment and hoping to be working full-time soon.

"If the ECA program wasn't available, I would be at risk of losing my eyesight forever. The Foundation really came through, and I appreciate that. I was able to recover most of my eyesight, and I'm now able to drive. The Foundation's support was awesome!"



"Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light."

[Helen Keller](#)



Help in every district

Many Lions clubs are unaware the Foundation offers an ECA program that serves individuals like Edwin right here in Missouri who suffer needlessly from vision problems simply because they can't afford treatment. Many of these Missourians are just over the poverty level, don't qualify for government assistance and cannot afford insurance.

The ECA program was designed to cover the eye care costs of residents who fit MLERF's financial eligibility criteria. We work closely with participating eye care providers to negotiate a fee structure and cover the costs of certain expenses. Just as important, the Foundation has built partnerships with doctors throughout the state so recipients can receive treatment in their own communities.

Some of the services we cover include, but are not limited to, doctor visits, diagnostic testing, some surgical procedures, and medication. In addition, the Foundation works with participating LensCrafters throughout Missouri to screen applicants requesting a one-time, no-cost eye exam and pair of eyeglasses.

To learn more about requesting help from ECA, visit www.mlerf.org/eye-care-assistance, call 800-753-2265, ext. 8504, or email sfields@mlerf.org.

Join the fight against blindness

As with all of our programs, the Foundation is doing what we can to keep up with demand while on a tighter budget. Up until 2011, we partnered with the Knights Templar Foundation to cover the costs of cataracts surgeries. However, KTF decided to focus their efforts on research, leaving the Foundation to handle all the costs for the growing program. If you would like to help the Foundation continue to serve ECA recipients in your community, please consider making a financial donation to MLERF at www.mlerf.org/give or at 404 Portland St., Columbia, MO 65201.



ENHANCED QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH QUALITY VISION



CHILDREN'S
VISION
SCREENING



HEALTHY
VISION
SCREENING



THE GIFT
OF SIGHT



EYE CARE
ASSISTANCE



EYEGLASS
RECYCLING



SUPPORT OF
OCULAR
RESEARCH

"It's wonderful to climb the liquid mountains of the sky. Behind me and before me is God and I have no fears."

[Helen Keller](#)

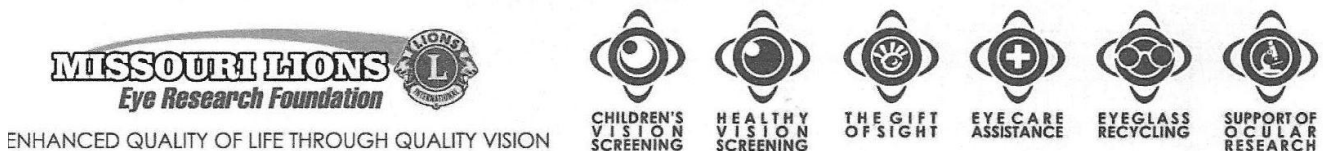
Campaign to Register 20 Million New Organ Donors in 2012

Donate Life America, the national organization promoting organ, eye and tissue donation in the United States, has launched the bold new initiative, "20 Million in 2012." The initiative focuses on radically increasing the number of people registered on state donor registries.

This official launch of the campaign comes on the heels of its announcement during the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., where every year since 2004 it has sponsored the Donate Life float. This year's float again featured inspirational stories of organ donors and their families, a tradition that the "20 million in 2012" campaign will continue throughout 2012 as it features powerful stories of those affected by organ, eye and tissue donation.

"In 2012 we are making a bold statement about our commitment to save more lives," said David Fleming, President and CEO of Donate Life America. "With the majority of individuals in the United States wishing to be organ, eye and tissue donors, the biggest challenge to meeting our goal of 20 million will be getting people to take action and register today as an organ, eye and tissue donor at DonateLifeAmerica.org."

For more information about the "20 Million in 2012" campaign or to register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor and join in this lifesaving work, visit www.donatelifeamerica.org or www.donatelifemissouri.com.



"Of all the senses, sight must be the most delightful."

[Helen Keller](#)

Get Social With the Foundation and Eye Bank!



One of the easiest ways to stay on top of the latest news at the Foundation and Eye Bank is to follow us through social media.

The Foundation is on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/MLERF and on Twitter at [@MLERF](https://twitter.com/MLERF).

In addition, you can find the Eye Bank at

www.facebook.com/HeartlandLEB and at [@EyeBanks](https://twitter.com/EyeBanks).

Also, be sure to sign up for the monthly *Sightlines* e-newsletter at the bottom of either the www.mlerf.org or www.hleb.org home page.

Haywood Snipes Award Recipients

The following individuals were recently inducted into the Haywood Snipes Society, January 2012 – March 2012.

Lion Wesley Langkraehr, Concordia Lions

Lion Jack Richardson, Jefferson City Host Lions

PCC Ron McMullin, MD26 M-5 PDG Association

Lion Larry Duncan, Owensville Lions

Washington Lions



ENHANCED QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH QUALITY VISION



CHILDREN'S
VISION
SCREENING



HEALTHY
VISION
SCREENING



THE GIFT
OF SIGHT



EYE CARE
ASSISTANCE



EYEGLOSS
RECYCLING



SUPPORT OF
OCULAR
RESEARCH

"So long as the memory of certain beloved friends lives in my heart, I shall say that life is good."

[Helen Keller](#)

The Missouri Lion is the official
Bulletin of Missouri District 26. Send all
communications and articles for publication

27011 Harrill Lane
Lebanon, Missouri 65536-4470

to *the Missouri Lion*

Lion Jennie Mosher
27011 Harrill Lane
Lebanon, MO. 65536-4470

newsletter@missourilions.org

the Missouri Lion

Waiver Form for the Missouri Lion Newsletter

We are aware that many families receive multiple copies of *the Missouri Lion* bulletin. While many Lions have sent in the waiver form to help us reduce the cost associated with publishing and distribution of our state newsletter we are still facing escalating costs. Please help us reduce the cost of delivering information about state wide Lion Club activities and events. If you have Internet access and your newsletter can be sent by e-mail, we can save money on postage as well as publishing costs. I understand many do not have the luxury of Internet service and it is our goal to be able to continue providing current Lion information to these members. Through your efforts we can continue to meet the needs of the Missouri Lions and keep our costs down. Thank you for your assistance. Send completed waiver forms to the Missouri Lion editor Lion Jennie Mosher.

Name: _____ District: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone #: _____ Club: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

☐ E-Mail Copy Only

Signature of Lion completing form: _____