



The International Association Of Lions Clubs

July 2011 Newsletter



FROM YOUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR, BOB FITZGERALD



Ask me about My Club, My Family!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the District 8 I for giving me the opportunity to serve as your District Governor.

I look forward to serving with you this year. It is my hope that we will work together to make this one of our best years ever!

In my opening statement, I used the phrase, "My Club, My Family!"

As Lions, we are a part of a different kind of family. Our family doesn't require biological relations to one another. We are a family because we share a common belief that by working together we can accomplish great things and make changes to our community through, **SERVICE!**

It is important that we value our club members as family. The strength of our club's lies with its members. By keeping them involved, instilling pride and treating them with mutual respect as we would our own family, our clubs **WILL BE SUCCESSFUL!**

Lion Bob

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

July 22, 2011 (This Friday)

Closing ceremony for Lion's Camp

September 22-24, 2011

USA/Canada Forum, Anchorage, Alaska

September 24, 2011

Big Bass Rodeo at Cypress Bend
on Toledo Lake

April 20-22, 2011

Louisiana Lions State Convention,
Lake Charles, La

PRESIDENT'S THEME 2011-2012 "I BELIEVE"

Our 2011-2012 international president's theme,

I Believe,

expresses the thought that the Lions of the world have created a culture organized around a belief in the value of giving back – and a belief that one person truly can make a difference.

To Wing-Kun Tam, INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, believing is different from thinking because it has three other key elements:

Courage •

Commitment •

ACTION!

International President Tam has three special goals this year:

- Strengthening and retaining our membership by taking care of fellow members as if they were family
- Expanding our service to new heights, propelled by a special campaign to plant one million trees
- And nurturing our future by involving more young people and Leos in all that we do



"If you don't believe what you are doing is right, how can you INSPIRE others?"

Wing-Kun Tam

GLOBAL SERVICE ACTION CAMPAIGNS

Through service, Lions have impacted the lives of millions of people. Now more than ever, we are in a position to extend our network of care. To show this strength, Lions have the opportunity to participate in four special service action campaigns.

August – Engaging our Youth- Invite Leos and youth in your area to help organize and participate in a service project. Projects may include school or community facility cleanups or a visit to a home for senior citizens or a children's hospital. Allowing youth to develop and lead a service project enables them to learn skills while emphasizing the role of service.

October – Sharing the Vision- Plan vision health projects and work with the visually impaired. Many Lions already celebrate World Sight Day in October. This is a great month to organize a vision screening, volunteer at a nearby Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, organize an eyeglass collection or an activity to benefit the visually impaired in your community.

December/January – Relieving the Hunger- Organize food drives and projects to feed the hungry. With the downturn in the global economy, many hunger relief organizations are finding it difficult to keep up with demand. Help alleviate hunger by planning events around the end and beginning of the calendar year to collect and distribute food.

April – Protecting our Environment- Implement projects that improve and protect the environment. Organize a highway clean up, plant trees or plan a community "Earth Day" event to collect recyclables such as aluminum cans, plastic bottles, used cell phones and batteries.

MILLION TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN

Caring for our environment is an important part of our extension of service this year.



Why Trees?

It's no secret that trees help the environment, but you may be surprised by all the benefits that planting a tree can provide. Trees are like the lungs of the planet. They breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen. They also reduce erosion to save soil, help preserve local water sources, and provide habitat for wildlife living under more and more stress. Simply put, planting trees in your neighborhood really is one of the best things you can do for the local environment.

Any of us can plant a tree. It's a very visible and hands-on way for each and every Lion to make a difference. It's also a great project to invite your community at-large to join your local Lions club in a collaborative effort. If we can plant a million trees, it will reinforce the limitless potential we all know we have to make a difference as Lions.

So make tree-planting part of your club or district activities this year, and invite your neighbors, friends and members of the community to join you. What better way to be reminded of our gift of service than to watch the trees you have planted grow year-by-year? Every month throughout the year, we will report the number of trees being planted on this Web site.

Wing-Kun Tam
2011-2012 International President



EYE FOUNDATION NEWS



The Louisiana Lions Eye Foundation's quarterly meeting is being brought back to the LIONS building in New Orleans after 6 long years. The last meeting was held there only weeks before Hurricane Katrina.

On Saturday August 20th the meeting will be held at the Lions building at 2020 Gravier Street on the 6th floor. On Sunday the meeting will be held at the host hotel which is "The Inn on Bourbon" in New Orleans, Louisiana. This hotel is on the corner of Bourbon Street and Toulouse Street. Each member must make his or her own reservations. When calling for reservations identify yourself as a **LION with the LOUISIANA LIONS EYE FOUNDATION**. The room rates are \$79 for a standard king/double and \$110 for a Courtyard room per night plus tax. Parking is \$10.00 per day. The hotel parking is owned and operated by the Inn on Bourbon, so you will have access to your car and it will be safe and sound. The parking entrance is on Toulouse right before Bourbon.

In order to secure the special rate, you must make your reservations by August 8, 2011. The hotel information is as follows:

**The Inn on Bourbon
541 Bourbon Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
(504)524-7611**

Saturday's General Meeting will be extra special, it will be held at the LLEF offices at LSU. LSU has gone through some changes, so come meet the new Chairperson of Ophthalmology Dr. Jean Weiss and ALL the LSU Doctors. Lunch will be provide and sponsored by District 8-S Lions Clubs while LSU Doctors take you around to all the research labs so you can meet the LSU research doctors and ask them all the questions you been wondering about. So come hungry and mingle with the LSU Staff.

On Sunday the meeting will be held at the hotel starting at 9:00AM on the first floor.

The phone number listed above is to the hotel direct. If you have any problems or concerns regarding hotel reservations please call Debbie Holcomb at (504)525-7235. From LSU will be on hand to provide tours of the research labs and will be speaking about their specialties. Lunch and tours will begin at 11:00 am on August 20th followed by the General Meeting with guest speakers. Sunday's meeting will be held at the hotel.

A lot is happening for LLEF in district 8-I. LLEF is moving forward to develop programs so we can provide more service to more residents in district 8-I

The CubSight and the Glaucoma screening programs both had record breaking years and it is all because of you, the Lions of Louisiana.

Thank you for your continued support and keep your EYES open for some new and exciting developments in the future.

Lion Chris Carlone

Executive Director,

Louisiana Lions Eye Foundation.

Cell 504-251-2508

THE BELIEVER'S AWARD

As part of the Million Tree Planting campaign, “The Believer’s” Awards will be available to districts and clubs who demonstrate their belief in the power of service by planting a tree:

- **District Awards.** Each district governor whose district achieves at least 50 percent club participation in tree planting will receive an “I’m A Believer” plaque to commemorate their success.
- **Club Awards.** The top 100 clubs in each constitutional area who plant the most number of trees by members will receive a special award plaque and be recognized on the Web site and in LION magazine. In addition, all clubs participating in tree planting will receive a specially-designed banner patch for the first tree planting activity reported during the fiscal year.

Award Eligibility

To be considered for “The Believer’s” awards, clubs and districts must submit a report on their Million Tree Planting Campaign activities (narrative description of the activity, with photos if available) to Lions Clubs International via the Lions Service Activity Report in the WMMR by **May 1, 2012**.



The Lions Environmental Photo Contest provides a way for Lions to portray, through an original photo, their pride and commitment to improving, protecting and preserving their environment.

Every Lion from a club in good standing can enter a photograph of his or her immediate surroundings into the club-level Lions Environmental Photo Contest.

ENTRY GUIDELINES

Lions can submit photographs of their environment in one of the following five categories:

- Animal life
- Plant life
- Urban or natural landscape
- Weather phenomenon
- **Special theme:** Protecting our Future with Trees
- Photos of trees and the vital role they play in our communities.

Winning club-level photographs will advance to the district, multiple district, and international competitions.

Registered attendees of the Lions international convention will vote for their favorite in each category, as well as their overall favorite photograph. The six photos will appear [on the Contest Winners page](#). The six Lions photographers will receive an award.

LION'S ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTO CONTEST

2011-2012**DISTRICT 8-I CABINET OFFICERS****District Governor:**

Lion Bob Fitzgerald

Tel: 318-325-6025

E-mail: district8i@aol.com

Immediate Past DG:

Lion Bob Hollingsworth

Tel: 318-561-1010

E: dgbob2010@yahoo.com

1st Vice District Governor:

Lion James Ballard

Tel: 318-442-8781

E-mail: jballard@pmhcpa.com

2nd Vice District Governor

TBA

**Cabinet Secretary/
Treasurer:**

Lion Ed Frost, PDG

Tel: 318-445-4439

E-mail:
edwardfrost@bellsouth.net**District Newsletter Editor:**

Lion Debbie Fitzgerald

E-mail: district8i@aol.com

Please send information/and or photos about ***your*** club projects, activities, fundraisers to be included in ***your*** newsletter!

**LION'S CAMP CLOSING CEREMONY**

We had a great summer! A total of 531 attended camp and enjoyed themselves!

Closing ceremony will be July 22, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the gym and will move to the campfire around 7:30. Camp songs will be sung . Scholarships and awards will be given to staff members and campers. Ceremony will end around 8:30-8:45. Please plan to attend. It will be an event you will not soon forget!

PREPARING AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Please help make this your newsletter! Please send information concerning your club's projects, activities and upcoming events to district8i@aol.com attention: Debbie

Please include photos, articles and dates of events that you wish for others to be aware of. Thank you for your help and support! Looking forward to a wonderful year!