



"WE SERVE"

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Orrville Lions' Tale

HAPPY ST.
PATRICKS DAY!

MARCH 2010

A message from our President

Spring, oh Spring, where art thou??? Hey, who wants some cheese with that whine?? All we've been doing is whining about the snow, slippery roads and nasty weather. I, on the other hand, have enjoyed being cheese store bound....I love not having to drive to work and love being cooped up in the house with all those goodies in my store. It actually gave me some time to reflect and meditate a bit, since I had few customers and no employees to contend with.

I looked outside, at the gorgeous scene developing in my back yard, with trees, bushes, and deck covered with white, glistening snow. It was so quiet and peaceful I could hardly hear the usual roar of the trucks on Rt. 30. Maybe my wallet was short a few bucks from the minimal number of customers, but my heart and soul were filled with joy....I seldom have any down time and I loved the opportunity to watch the birds and squirrels in my trees.

My neighbor's teen-age foster son, without being asked, was sweeping off my front steps and shoveling a path out front, in case any customers did come in. He's gone on to another foster home since then, but I see that smiling face, asking me if I minded that

he cleaned my snow, didn't want any money, was just trying to be a good neighbor. A troubled child that has lived in foster care for most of his life, found happiness helping the neighbors when the snow became too deep to walk in. He has no idea what an impact he had on me, as we were sharing stories of our lives and I was almost ashamed of how wonderful my life has been, compared to how difficult his has been. He assured me that he was as happy as he's ever been and will someday become rich and famous and is thankful that he's been blessed with intelligence, wit, charm and good looks (his words, I swear to you!!). I pray that he finds a good home, a good role model, and keeps the happy attitude that will make him rich and famous...he's already rich in so many ways, I thought. Nonetheless, he did make me smile and I was sad to see him have to move on.....his spirit will remain in the snow in my yard.

It reminded me of our Lions good attitude...always ready to help, always ready to work, always ready to donate....I want our Lions Club to leave an impact on our community, as did the teenager on me, by helping, smiling and sharing.
ROAR LIONS!!!! Lion Rita



When it comes to meeting challenges, our response is simple: We serve. It's something that unites Lions around the world. And it's unconditional. Lions aren't limited by continents or restricted to certain causes. We help wherever, whenever and however we can.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 9th - Bill & Nancy Brown from Doylestown Lions
- 20th - Zone Social @ Wilmot Amish Door (Turn reservation in to Rita by March 15)
- 23rd - Sandy Sheffield—Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- April 6th - Cindy Summers Univ. of Akron (Meet at 6PM, UA Wayne College Cafeteria)
- 13th - Regular Meeting—All committees meet and report
- 17th - 8:30 AM Registration District 13-G Convention at Shisler Conference Center; Tail Gate Party 6:30 Cost \$20
- 18th - 9:00 AM Registration; Grand Banquet 11:30 AM, Cost \$25 (Send registration and money to Todd Imhoff, CST PDG, 2558 Ann Court, Wooster, OH 44691 DEADLINE 4/7/10)
- 27th - Viola Startzman Free Clinic Presentation

March is Eye Donor Awareness Month!



WHO ARE LIONS?

Lions meet the needs of local communities and the world. Our more than 1.3 million members in 205 countries and geographic areas are different in many ways, but we share a core belief – community is what we make it.

Parade of Checks—Most Lions Clubs donate to one or more of the following annually

- Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation
- Diabetes Research/Bryan Endowment Fund
- Sight and Hearing Committee
- Camp Echoing Hills
- International Relations
- Ohio Lions All State Band
- Lions Clubs International Foundation
- Ohio Lions Foundation

March Spotlight

Lion Sandy Sheffield



- Birthday**– March 21; Hometown: Detroit
- Family:** Husband Greg Children: Ryan, Megan, Jesse, Shae
- Hobbies/interests:** Music, travel, wine, books & movies
- Education:** Certified in Early Childhood Ed
- Occupation:** Associate Director for United Way
- Favorite Spot:** My backyard
- Reason for joining Orrville Lions:** Community involvement
- Favorite color:** Yellow
- Favorite Season:** Spring
- Words of wisdom:** “Always keep an open mind and an open heart”
- Favorite Music:** Almost everything, but first love is jazz
- Favorite show:** Avatar 3D
- Favorite food:** Chocolate
- Place you want to visit:** Italy
- Person living or dead I would like to meet:** Bruce Springsteen

March Birthdays

- 3/7 Margery Skeen
- 3/12 Jean Hurley
- 3/21 Sandy Sheffield
- 3/25 Karen Gilkison



“Everyone has an opportunity to be great because every-one has an opportunity to serve.” ~ Martin Luther King

Opportunities for Youth

submitted by Gail Steiger

The Orrville Lions Club learned a great deal about what the Opportunity School in Wooster is all about from Principal Chuck Fleming. Fleming has been a member since 1986 of various Lions Clubs around the world, as he and his wife, Carol, spent time working in a number of foreign countries as well as locations in the US.

Since moving to Wooster, Ohio four years ago, Fleming has been instrumental in the evolution of the Opportunity School. What started in 1995 to serve a handful of 17 – 19 year old male students, today serves 54 students in grades 7 – 12 from Wooster, Orville, Chippewa, Creston, and other Wayne county communities. “These are not at risk students, they are high risk students” Fleming shared. Fleming secured a \$440,000 21st Century Learning Grant last year that provides for afterschool and summer activities geared towards academic and behavioral choice success. Last year he also secured funding through private and community organizations to pilot and then expand on an equine therapy and mentoring program “Change through Chance”. The program is in place to work with students after school hours and during the summer months. With the support of a grant secured by Akron Children’s Hospital the Opportunity School will be offering the “Tele-Health-Kids Project”, a program that will provide medical services to help students through the use of technology. He hopes to see student health issues decrease and attendance increase through its use. Also, a new program through Verizon allows students unable to be present in school to access



course work online via the internet with a loaned laptop computer. This will have a very positive impact on student credit recovery and eventual graduation.

Fleming added “These high risk students, often victims of their childhood environment, are given a chance to turn their lives around and become productive members of our society rather than face a future of community support through various government and private agencies. The benefit to the community is a savings of millions of dollars that would otherwise be spent in the support of non-high school graduates over their life time. At the Opportunity School, everyday offers a fresh start.”

The next meeting of the Orrville Lions Club will feature the Brown’s from the Doylestown Lions Club on Tuesday, March 9 at 8:00 AM in the Community Room of Dunlap Community Hospital. The public is always welcome. For more information contact Kathi Bond 330-683-1482.

Lions Trivia



- Lions Eye Bank annually provide quality eye tissue over 30,000 sight-saving surgeries, medical education and eye research.
- Over 7,600,000 cataract surgeries have been performed as part of the Sight First program.
- Helen Keller addressed the Lions Clubs International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, and challenged the Lions to become “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness.”
- The Lions Club network has grown to include more than 200 countries and geographic areas.

Visit us at www.OrrvilleLionsClub.com