



Lions District 2-A2 Newsletter



Issue 6 - December 2023

Changing the World

District 2-A2 Cabinet

District Governor

Josh Overfelt

Josh.overfelt@gmail.com

Del Rio San Felipe Lions Club

830.734.6219

1st Vice-District Governor

Rose Ann Barajas

RABrunner64@gmail.com

SA Edgewood Lions Club

2nd Vice-District Governor

Nanette Patton

GI.Jade.1ea@gmail.com

SA Windcrest Lions Club

Immediate Past District Governor

Steve Mays

texasmays@gmail.com

La Vernia Lions Club

210.380.6572

Greetings Fellow Lions District 2-A2,

December has arrived! Where did 2023 go? It's been an eventful year, to say the least, and a great first half of the Lion year. We have a new club that was chartered, San Antonio Yellow Rose and we have been positive in membership coming into this month. However, with December we tend to see one of the two big drops in membership happen. If you have members who have been struggling to make meetings or pay dues, see if there is anything that the club can do to help out before a drop takes place.



Don't forget that the Mid- Winter conference is rapidly approaching. This year we will be in Kerrville at the Texas Lions Camp January 19-20, 2024. The registration form and hotel information can be found online at www.district2a2.org. If 38 clubs show up I have committed to going into the pool for a polar lion plunge (not sure my doctor agrees with it).

With the Christmas season upon us and the spirit of giving arriving with it, you may want to consider a personal donation to one or more of our great organizations such as LCIF, TLF, TLC or any other. These foundations help us as Lions give back to our communities in times of need and crisis.

In closing I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a great New Year! Enjoy your time with family and friends, tell them you love them and make the most of each day.

Remember:

From The Rio Grande to The Alamo, WE SERVE!!

Lion Josh

District Governor Josh Overfelt (Del Rio San Felipe)

Josh.overfelt@gmail.com

(830) 734-6219

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Cabinet and Convention Dates:

Mid-Winter Conference	January 19-20th	Kerrville, Texas
District Convention	April 18-20th	Eagle Pass, Texas

Club and Other Events:

HEB Feast of Sharing (MESU)	December 23rd	Convention Center San Antonio, Texas
Valentines Games Night	February 10th	Italian Society Hall San Antonio, Texas
LSRF Stride for Sight 5K	March 30th	Comanche Park San Antonio, Texas
Harry Wickersham Golf Tournament	August 1st	Lady Bird Johnson GC Fredericksburg, Texas

Tell Us What You Are Doing

We want our District newsletter to feature more of the wonderful work being done by each of the Lions Clubs in District 2-A2. Please send in articles about your service projects, fundraisers, installations, and member recognitions for inclusion in the monthly newsletter to newsletter@district2a2.org. Articles must be submitted by the 28th of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

ALAMO HEIGHTS LIONS CLUB & TEXAS LIONS EYEGLASS RECYCLING CTR
Free Postage to Mail Eyeglasses to the Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center
by Lion Norman Fulkerson

The USPS Publication 347 dated October 2015 spells out how to mail glasses for recycling to the Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in Midland, Texas.

The publication states that individuals and noncommercial organizations which serve eligible persons (i.e., those who require glasses). No advertising is allowed.

The box or envelope must NOT be sealed. The boxes must have the words "FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND OR THE HANDICAPPED" in the upper right corner of the address side of the envelope or parcel where postage is normally placed. The words may be printed, rubber stamped or handwritten. See the form below.

The mail is not considered a specific class of mail. If you wish to insure the item, you may pay the required insurance fee.

The Postmaster at my Post Office says they will accept boxes up to the size of a Banker's box or the size of the box that comes with 10 reams of paper. I have found the 10 ream paper box weighs about 20 pounds when full of eyeglasses.

You may use the form below by cutting off the bottom of this page to use as the required label.

FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND OR HANDICAPPED MAILING

From: _____

FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND OR
THE HANDICAPPED

To: Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center
2550 Flynt Ave.
Midland, TX 79701

District 2-A2 Mid-Winter Conference



District 2-A2



2023-2034 Mid-Winter Conference

January 19 & 20, 2024

**Texas Lions Camp Dining Hall
Kerrville, Texas**

Hosted by the Kerrville Host Lions Club

**District Governor Josh has made a challenge to District 2-A2.
If 38 clubs attend, he will jump into the camp swimming pool.**

**For Hotel Reservations:
Best Western Sunday House
2124 Sidney Baker St
Kerrville, TX 78028
(830) 896-1313
Use discount code "Lions Club"
Lions room rate \$ 109.00 + tax.**

Register Online for the Mid-Winter Conference

Download and Mail Registration with Your Check

VOLUNTEER Service Opportunity



Event: HEB Feast of Sharing (Vision Screening)

25+ volunteers needed

Date: December 23, 2023

Time: 11:00am - 4:00pm

Training on site: 9:00am

Location:

Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center

Hall 4B

900 E Market St

San Antonio, TX 78205 [map...](#)

Contact: lionsmum@earthlink.net

Text or call 210-275-4425

PDG Chris Lloyd - MESU Manager

PID M.P. Mike Butler Ambassador of Service Award



ANNOUNCING: THE PID M.P. MIKE BUTLER AMBASSADOR OF SERVICE AWARD

The District 2-A2 Past District Governors Association offers a means to both recognize the many years of dedicated service of numerous long-serving Members of Clubs throughout District 2-A2 while also initiating a long overdue and very significant measure to honor our own

Past International Director, M. P. "Lion Mike" Butler.

The District PDG's invite District Clubs to nominate their very special, eligible, Members to receive the PID M.P. MIKE BUTLER AMBASSADOR OF SERVICE AWARD

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION AND SELECTION:

1. A member must have been a member in good standing for a minimum of 15 years.
2. The member may not have been inducted into the District 2-A2 Herb Petry Hall of Fame
3. The member may not have served as District Governor.
4. The member must be nominated by his/her club and voted as an awardee by a majority of PDG Association members.
5. A Club may nominate one member per year using Resolution format on Club letterhead. That nomination may remain current for a three year period. The Club may not nominate another member until the prior nominee has been awarded, three year term has run out, or the member has expired. **Nomination is to be submitted following announcement of the opening of nominations each November and shall be submitted no later than the close of the Annual Mid- Winter Conference in January.**

Other Stated Qualifications: (Enumerated, and accompanying Nomination Resolution)

- PROVEN LEADERSHIP AS A CLUB OFFICER AND CLUB PROJECT LEADER
- DEDICATED TO THE GROWTH OF THEIR CLUB THROUGH THEIR SPONSORSHIP AND GUIDING OF OTHER CLUB MEMBERS TOWARD THEIR OWN PERSONAL SUCCESS AS LIONS
- RECOGNITION FOR ETHICS ABOVE REPROACH AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL OF HIGH MORAL CHARACTER
- RECOGNIZED SERVICE BEYOND THE CLUB ENVIRONMENT THAT MAY INCLUDE MILITARY OR OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE OR LIONISTIC SERVICE BEYOND THE CLUB LEVEL

NOTE: The elements of these criteria have been endorsed by PID Butler and are based on his personal strong beliefs that District 2-A2 should always make great efforts to uplift and remember the long serving "Grass Roots" members that sacrifice and serve through their Clubs.

OTHER:

No more than a total of four awards may be presented each year, the exception would be the inaugural (Charter) year of award when ten awardees may be recognized.

The award will be an appropriately designed medal with pin and ribbon and an accompanying congratulatory letter.

The cost of the awards will be borne by the PDG Association and they will be presented at the District Convention at the same ceremony as the Herb Petry Hall of Fame Induction.

Mail Club Nominations to PDG Sam Pantusa 4502 Centerview, Suite 120 San Antonio Tx 78228
For Information—PDG Sam Pantusa (210) 326 3915 or Email: spantusa@yahoo.com

NOTICE - District 2-A2 Hall of Fame Nominees Needed



The District 2-A2 PDG Association is accepting Resolutions for Lions to be considered for the District 2-A2 Hall of Fame. Resolutions must be received by the end of our Mid-Winter Conference on January 20, 2024. Please forward all Resolutions to:

PCC Michael “Mike” Rourke, Chairman

HERB C. PETRY, JR. “HALL OF FAME” REQUIREMENTS

Elevation of Lions of District 2-A2 into the Hall of Fame is bestowed upon one who has been outstanding in using their time, talents and resources to further the cause of humanitarian service. Selection is made by the Hall of Fame Committee.

Minimum standards to qualify are:

- Be an active member with at least 15 years of service.
- Having provided outstanding and dedicated service to Lionism.
- Having provided other than Lionistic service to the community, state, and nation.
- Having accomplished special achievements in, or contributed to, humanitarian service for those less fortunate, and
- Not having solicited in any manner for this recognition, which automatically eliminates the soliciting candidate for that year.

Note From Our Second Vice-District Governor Nanette Patton:

November was National Diabetes Month, a time when communities across the country seek to bring attention to diabetes. This year's focus was on taking action to prevent diabetes health problems. Diabetes is a disease that occurs when your blood glucose, also called blood sugar, is too high. It affects about 37 million Americans, including adults and youth. Diabetes can damage the eyes, kidneys, nerves, and heart, and is linked to some types of cancer.

I participated in two events this year that supported National Diabetes Month:

- 1) On November 4th, the Lions Sight Research Foundation Mobile Eye Screening Unit (MESU) joined up with the West Side Lions Club to support a health fair at the Madonna Center. This event included vision and diabetic screenings, pet vaccinations, and other health services from University Health.



2) On November 12th, I participated in the San Antonio JDRF International One Walk. The JDRF One Walk raises funds for scientific research to better treat, prevent, and ultimately cure type 1 diabetes (T1D). It is the largest T1D event in the world, raising more than \$1 billion for T1D research. In years past, this event has been on the UT Health Sciences campus and at Morgan's Wonderland. This year was the first time the event was at the San Antonio Zoo. Another first this year was the One Walk parade. The route through the zoo provided ample opportunity to check out the animals. At the end, they let participants ride the zoo carousel.



My home club the San Antonio Windcrest Lions Club has always been a proponent of the “Your Club, Your Way” philosophy. The JDRF One Walk is a club activity that I brought to the club when I was club president back in 2016 looking for a diabetes related club activity to help us get the Club Excellence Award. Since then, I have continued to take the lead every year.

As we roll into December, Wreaths Across America is another activity I brought to my home club as an Army veteran. Wreaths Across America is a yearlong mission recognized in the month of December to remember and honor our veterans from the Revolutionary War to the present-day conflicts. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers across the U.S. participate in this wreath laying each year to honor the military and their families. This year’s event on December 16th will start with the opening ceremony at Cole High School Football Stadium at 11 am followed by wreath laying at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery until they run out of wreaths. There are over 170,000 graves in the cemetery and while not all will get a wreath unfortunately, this event goes a long way to ensure the Service members laid to rest there are not forgotten. Come out and join me this year!

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), loneliness increases during this time of year. While many people enjoy getting together with family and friends for holiday parties. However, that is not the case for everyone. And this year due to inflation and a struggling economy, many people are struggling to afford food and a home for their families. Buying holiday gifts is something many families cannot do, and buying gifts are the least of their worries. With that mind, think about supporting the HEB Feast of Sharing taking place in San Antonio, on Saturday, December 23, 2023, from 11 am – 3 pm at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. The HEB Feast of Sharing provides a free holiday feast with turkey, ham, and all the fixings, as well as music, activities for the family, and a variety of free services, such as health and wellness screenings and flu vaccinations. PDG Chris Lloyd is looking for 25+ volunteers to help man the MESU for this event. The San Antonio Food Bank is also looking for donations and helping hands. Now is the time for collaborations. Open your big Lion heart wide and bring someone some unexpected joy in this holiday season!

31st Annual Harry Wickersham Golf Tournament

TITLE SPONSOR



JAMES AVERY
Forging Hope

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT TEXAS LIONS CAMP

TLC is tax exempt under 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S.—Donations are tax deductible—see your tax professional for details.



August 1, 2024

8:00 am Shotgun Start

Lady Bird Johnson Golf Course
Fredericksburg, TX

All GIFTS will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$50,000
in 2023-2024 by **James Avery Artisan Jewelry®**
For more information: www.lionscamp.com.

Sponsor One or More Holes

For a one time donation of \$100 per hole, individuals, clubs
associations & corporations may sponsor a hole(s). All
sponsors of the tournament will be recognized on signage
and publications on location and on the Texas Lions Camp
website: www.lionscamp.com. **Deadline to ensure recogni-
tion/publication is July 12, 2024.**

Please make checks payable to Texas Lions Camp.

***Children Can...
With TLC™***

**Come Play and
make a Kid's Day
in 2024!**

For more information or to download
player registration forms go to
www.lionscamp.com

Name _____

Address _____

City / State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Club _____ District _____

Email: _____

Credit Card: MC ____ Visa ____ Discover ____ Amount: _____

CC#: _____ Expiration: ____ / ____ CVC _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

MAIL TO: TEXAS LIONS CAMP
PO Box 290247 Kerrville, TX 78029

**James Avery Artisan Jewelry
provides \$50,000 Challenge**
to celebrate 75th Anniversary of Texas Lions Camp
Named Title Sponsor for 31st Annual Harry Wickersham Golf Tournament

Kerrville, Texas - James Avery Artisan Jewelry has issued a \$50,000 challenge-matching grant to help commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Texas Lions Camp and support children with special medical conditions attending Summer Camp 2024. Every gift designated for the 31st Annual Harry Wickersham Golf Tournament will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$50,000. With this challenge, the company has also been named the Title Sponsor for the 2024 Golf tournament.

"Texas Lions Camp (TLC) is excited that James Avery Artisan Jewelry has agreed to help TLC celebrate our Diamond anniversary and participate with our organization again in 2023-2024 and invest in our mission by offering this exciting challenge opportunity," said President & CEO of TLC, Stephen S. Mabry.

James Avery's Chief Executive Officer John McCullough stated, "For 75 years, the Lions of Texas and TLC have introduced over 84,000 children to the 'CAN DO' philosophy and encouraged them to reach for new horizons and celebrate exciting, first-time experiences. Just as we forge silver and gold to craft jewelry, we are forging hope through our support of nonprofit organizations in the communities where we live and work. We are proud to encourage donors across Texas to partner with us in supporting the beauty that Texas Lions Camp offers to children and their families through this unique and educational summer camp experience."

About James Avery Artisan Jewelry®

About James Avery Artisan Jewelry® – James Avery is a vertically integrated, family-owned company located in the heart of the Texas Hill Country. We offer finely crafted jewelry designs for men and women in sterling silver, 14K and 18K gold, bronze and gemstones. James Avery jewelry is designed in the Texas Hill Country, with more than 90 percent of our pieces crafted in Kerrville, Comfort, Hondo and Corpus Christi, Texas using the finest materials sourced worldwide. We are a multi-channel retailer with over 120 James Avery stores in four states. Our jewelry is also available at JamesAvery.com, over 250 Dillard's locations and at Dillards.com and at 37 Von Maur locations and VonMaur.com. You can also find our designs at airport stores in Austin, Houston and Nashville, as well as select Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) locations.

Harry Wickersham 31st Annual Golf Tournament

For 31 years, Texas Lions Camp (TLC) has sponsored an annual Golf tournament to help support camp operations. More about the history of this Golf Tournament and the Lions that helped make it become a reality may be found on our website (<https://lionscamp.com/Wickersham.html>). The event now raises \$150,000 annually and has cumulatively produced more than \$2 million over the past 30 years. Special thanks to all who have helped make this fund-raiser such a success. The 31st Annual Harry Wickersham Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, August 1, 2024 and will be hosted once again by the Fredericksburg Lions Club at Lady Bird Johnson Golf Course in Fredericksburg, Texas.

Learn about Texas Lions Camp, Inc.

Those who are interested in learning more about and/or contributing to the work of Texas Lions Camp are invited to visit www.lionscamp.com or by emailing Milton L. Dare at milton.dare@texaslions.camp. If preferred, you may call 830-896-8500 for more information.





Date: November 2, 2023

**Contact: Milton L. Dare, FACHE
Director of Development & Major Gifts
830-896-8500**

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Mabry added, "TLC will celebrate our Anniversary Summer Camp Season in 2024 with residential youth camps for children who have physical disabilities, cancer, Down syndrome, burn survivors, and type-1 diabetes as well as continue our highly successful family camp program. At Texas Lions Camp, we view camp as a time for campers to explore, exercise curiosity, and discover new interests and abilities. We want campers to attempt things that would normally be out of their reach, such as riding a horse, or rock climbing on our ropes course, or just being part of a team. The support of family, friends, and neighbors allows us to help some of the most amazing children share in the best summers of their lives."

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Follow us @jamesavery on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, as well as @jamesaveryjewelry on TikTok for new releases, trends and behind the scenes.

About the Harry Wickersham Golf Tournament – For 31 years, Texas Lions Camp has sponsored an annual Golf tournament to help support camp operations. The history of this Golf Tournament began with four Texas Lions (Lions Mike Butler, Marshall Cooper, Bruce Rickert and Harry Wickersham) coming to the Annual Board meeting of Texas Lions Camp (TLC) in Kerrville to enjoy fellowship with each other. They all loved to play golf and so what began on a \$10 per person gentlemen’s donation at the Flying L Ranch Golf Course in Bandera, Texas, has grown into a major Fundraising event which generates more than \$150,000 annually for children with special medical conditions. Other Lions heard about the golf outing and dozens joined in to play in subsequent years including Lion Ed Stebbins who was recruited to help organize the event into an annual fund-raising opportunity. He made the original presentation to the TLC Board of Directors to make the Golf Tournament an annual fund-raising event as well as recommended that the event be named in honor of Lion Harry Wickersham (who was the real golfer in the original foursome). In addition, he recruited Lion Lester Frantzen as the Tournament Director and the Fredericksburg Lions Club to help organize and operate the tournament each year.

About Texas Lions Camp, Inc.- Texas Lions Camp, Inc., provides, without charge, a camp for children with special medical conditions from the State of Texas, regardless of race, religion, or national origin. The organization was chartered as a Texas, nonprofit corporation on April 4, 1949, by the Lions Clubs of Texas and is recognized under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. The Camp is accredited by the American Camp Association and is licensed by the Texas Department of State Health Services. In addition, the organization is recognized with a Four-Star rating from Charity Navigator and is an active participant on GuideStar so donors may give with confidence when furthering the mission of TLC.

Those who are interested in learning more about and/or contributing to the work of Texas Lions Camp are invited to visit www.lionscamp.com or by emailing Milton L. Dare at milton.dare@texaslions.camp. If preferred, you may also call 830-896-8500 for more information.

A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT the
2024 Save Our Sight / Stride for Sight Campaign
to Benefit the Projects of your
Lions Sight Research Foundation



7 Chances to WIN
Only 200 Tickets to be Sold

1st Prize \$ 5,000 - 2nd Prize **\$ 1,000**
3rd & 4th Prizes **\$ 500**/each - 5th & 6th Prizes **\$ 250**/each
7th Prize **\$ 200**

\$100.00 donation

For online tickets & payment go to www.lionssightresearch.org

See **“Donations”** tab: **“Raffle”**

Checks made payable to: Lions Sight Research Foundation

For information: lsrf.sam@gmail.com or (210) 326 3915

Proceeds benefit the Lions Sight Research Foundation

Drawing Feb 10, 2024 at “Valentine Games Night”
need not be present to win





VALENTINE Games Night

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Christopher Columbus Italian Society Hall
201 Piazza Italia San Antonio, Texas 78207
FUN STARTS at 5:00pm



A Fundraising Event of the District 2-A2 Lions Sight Research Foundation

Your Reservation entitles you to be a **PLAYER** in our **VALENTINE CASINO** where you can **WIN** at **BLACKJACK TEXAS HOLD 'EM CRAPS ROULETTE** or the **MONEY WHEEL** and there's our **ADULT BEVERAGE RING TOSS HEADS & TAILS 50/50 RAFFLE**



A Fun Evening with **Great Food and Lots of Door Prizes**



RESERVED Tables for Eight - \$500.00 Donation General Seating - \$50.00 per attendee

Cash Bar—Beer and Wine, Set Ups for BYOB

Checks payable to the Lions Sight Research Foundation

For Online Reservations: www.lionssightresearch.org - "DONATIONS" Tab

For Other Reservations or information: PDG Sam Pantusa call: 210 326 3915 or email: lsrf.sam@gmail.com

We'll also be Drawing the Names of **ALL** the **WINNERS** of our

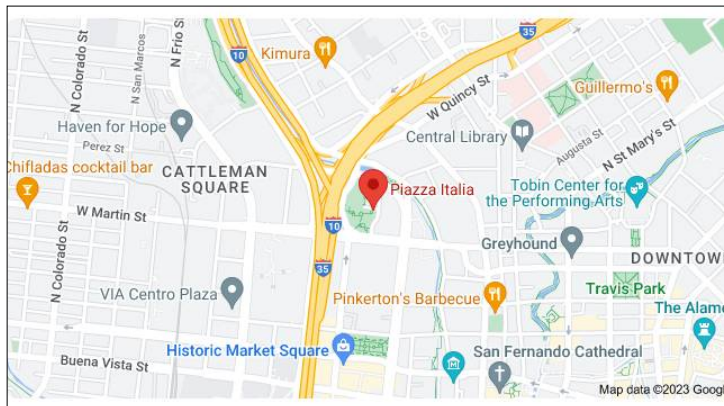


Sweetheart Raffle

gift card giveaway

7 Chances to WIN ONLY 200 to be SOLD—\$100 Donation

**1st Prize \$ 5,000 - 2nd Prize \$ 1,000 - 3rd & 4th Prizes \$ 500/each
5th & 6th Prizes \$ 250/each - 7th Prize \$ 200**



Valentine Games Night and the Sweetheart Raffle are fundraising elements of the 2024 Save Our Sight / Stride for Sight Campaign with net proceeds directed toward LSRF Special Projects and other needs of the Lions Eye Health Program.

**Christopher Columbus Italian Society Hall
201 Piazza Italia San Antonio, Texas 78207
Just off the IH 10 and IH 35 Interchange and
W. Martin St, north west of Downtown**

Texas Lions Camp Is Celebrating its Diamond 75th Anniversary – Party Time!

Texas Lions Camp (TLC) has been serving children and improving their quality of life since 1949. As lions, you all play an important role in supporting the camp.

On April 4, 2024, TLC will be celebrating the diamond anniversary of its founding. That will be 75 years of service! To commemorate this special event, there will be events taking place between February and April in 2024. This message is being sent out early so you can mark your calendars!

TLC's Birthday Party will be celebrated at the Lions State Level, in conjunction with the Past District Governor's Association banquet. It will be on Saturday, **February 3, 2024**, at 6:30 p.m. at Texas Lions Camp. Past International President, Doug Alexander, will be on hand to provide a keynote address.

The **TLC Camper & Counselor Homecoming** will be on **March 22-24, 2024**, at Texas Lions Camp. Times: TBA. The campers and counselors are remarkable people!

There will be a **Chamber of Commerce Wine & Cheese Mixer** on Thursday, **March 21, 2024**, at TLC. Time: TBA

An **Open House** will be on Friday-Sunday, **April 4-7, 2024**, at TLC. Times TBA.

A **TLC Star Party** will take place on Saturday, **April 6, 2024**, from 4-9 p.m., at the Kerr County Youth Exhibit Center in Kerrville. This will feature country music singer and songwriter Eric Paslay.

Make your plans to be on-hand to enjoy a front-row seat to see the **Total Solar Eclipse** at TLC on Monday, **April 8, 2024**. It should be a spectacular event!

Happy Birthday, Texas Lions Camp!

If you have questions about TLC or the above information, please contact District 2-A2 Camp Director Mary Ann Mays at mamays@gmail.com or Camp Director Chris Ryan at chrisr1475@sbcglobal.net.



TEXAS LIONS CAMP

LOCATED ON LAND ONCE OWNED BY KERRVILLE FOUNDER JOSHUA BROWN, THIS HAS BEEN THE SITE OF REHABILITATIVE FACILITIES SINCE THE 1920s, WHEN THE AMERICAN LEGION ESTABLISHED A SANITORIUM HERE, FOLLOWED BY A UNITED STATES VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL IN 1925. IN 1948, AS A NATIONWIDE POLIO EPIDEMIC RAGED, LOCAL LION JACK ROE, WORKING WITH THE KERRVILLE LIONS CLUB, PROMOTED THE CONCEPT OF A SPECIAL CAMP FOR CHILDREN AFFLICTED WITH THE DISEASE. A SOCIAL WORKER WITH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE, ROE HAD SEEN HANDICAPPED CHILDREN TURNED AWAY FROM OTHER SUMMER CAMPS, AND IN RESPONSE HE MADE IT HIS MISSION TO CREATE A PLACE WHERE THEY COULD EXPERIENCE THE JOYS OF NATURE AT A CAMP DESIGNED FOR THEIR UNIQUE NEEDS.

ROE AND THE LOCAL LIONS CLUB MEMBERS WORKED WITH OTHER CLUBS AROUND TEXAS TO PROMOTE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CAMP, AND IN 1949 THEY RECEIVED ENDORSEMENT FROM THE LIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. A STATEWIDE FUNDRAISING EFFORT AND THE ASSISTANCE OF THEN-U.S. SEN. LYNDON B. JOHNSON LED TO THE PURCHASE OF 504 ACRES OF LAND AT THIS SITE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN 1950. THE CAMP OFFICIALLY OPENED ON JUNE 8, 1953, WITH 40 CAMPERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE FORMAL DEDICATION CELEBRATION ON JULY 3, 1953. THE CAMP ALSO PROVIDED TRAINING FACILITIES FOR CLIENTS OF THE TEXAS COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND FROM 1958 TO 1984, AND SINCE 1971 HAS INCLUDED SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH DIABETES. IT CELEBRATED A MILESTONE IN 2003, MARKING SERVICE TO A TOTAL OF 50,000 CHILDREN SINCE ITS OPENING.

THE TEXAS LIONS CAMP HAS SERVED AS A PLACE OF EDUCATION AND RESPITE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS FOR MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY. ITS PROGRAMS, STILL SUPPORTED BY LIONS CLUBS THROUGHOUT THE STATE, REFLECT THE LIONS MOTTO "WE SERVE" BY PROVIDING CAMPERS WITH EDUCATION, ENTERTAINMENT AND MEMORIES TO LAST THEIR LIFETIMES.

(2005)

Texas Lions Camp – Chairman’s Chatter



TLC Chairman’s Chatter “Dreamcatching”



Prospecting Tips from the Pros (Part II)

For the last 2 months we have been talking about how thousands of Texas children have had their dreams come true at Texas Lions Camp, because we, the Lions of Texas, are their dreamcatchers. We are the webbing, snatching up all their negative thoughts, and allowing their dreams to sneak through the holes and come true at TLC. One of our 2 main jobs as “Dreamcatchers” is to find the campers, so they get the opportunity to come to Camp. **The magic that is - TLC - can’t work if they don’t come.**

Prospecting for campers can be a tough job. Privacy rules have eliminated most of the techniques we used in the past to get names and contact information. Many Lions just don’t have any idea where to start. So last month, after soliciting ideas from the “pros” (those who have been highly successful in finding campers), we found there were only 3 broad categories of approaches and we discussed 2 of them: 1) **Media** (newspaper, radio, TV) and 2) **Flyers & “Do You Know Cards”**. This time we will cover the 3rd one: **Presentations.**

Dreamcatching 101: Prospecting Tips for Finding Campers

(3) Presentations

Presentations take on two forms: Speaking to a group in a controlled setting or setting up a booth and talking to people as they come by. Before you do either of these you need to educate yourself about the camp and make sure you have plenty of camp brochures. Your elected TLC Directors can help you with both of these. You should also spend some time reviewing the camp website (lionscamp.com). There is information there to educate yourself on the camp, its history, the activities the campers enjoy, the camp schedule of the various camping sessions and even a marketing toolkit for you to use. If you are still not comfortable, then contact your elected director and see if they can help you with your 1st couple of presentations. They should also have “story boards” and other materials to set up a booth.

Some places you might be successful in setting up speaking engagements would include Special Needs support associations (they generally will have regular meetings for the parents); other service organizations, such as Elks, Rotary, etc. (they're always looking for programs); Senior Centers & Assisted living facilities (grandparents are always looking out for the grandkids); local Home-Schooling groups; your local PTA meeting; and your local Special Olympics. **Many smaller towns don't have all of the various Special Needs associations, so don't be afraid to go to the nearest town, where your local people will have to go for the services they need for their children. If there is a Lions Club in that town, maybe you can partner with them in setting up and making presentations.**

However, your schools are still the place where our "pros" have the most success. You should visit with your school Principals, the Special Education Director, the 504 Coordinator, and/or Health Services Director (school nurses) in your local school district. Virtually every one of these will have a regular faculty or staff meeting, where they might allow you time to tell them about TLC. You may also want to approach the Superintendent to speak at his/her annual teacher conclave, & your Region Education Service Center contact for health services (school nurses) to present at their August training or School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) meeting. Both of these need to be contacted in June or you likely won't be able to get on the August agenda. These last 2 may also allow you to set up a booth.

Booths: Beside the 2 mentioned above, any of your fundraising or service activities, such as health fairs, public eye screenings, chili suppers, pancake breakfasts, bingo night, raffle ticket sales outside the local Wal-Mart, etc. are all good booth locations. Local church fairs, chili cook-offs, rodeos, large flea markets or swap meets, county fairs & livestock shows, & school fall festivals are other possibilities. Some of these may charge fees for a booth, but many will waive the fee for a non-profit such as Lions Club/Camp.

This may sound daunting to many of you, but don't do it alone. Do it as a club project, making use of the various talents of your members in the process....and don't forget your elected directors. They are there to help you. However, the time to start "**making dreams come true**" is now, because **Online Registration opens January 3, 2024**. The 2024 camping session is attached below.

Go be a Dream Catcher!
PCC Tom Blase, Chairman

Texas Lions Camp

Summer Camp Schedule – 2024

1. June 2-8, 2024 - HC 1 (Friday ✓ out) – 1st
2. June 9-15, 2024 - HC 2 (Friday ✓ out) – 2nd
3. June 16-18, 2024 - Residential Day Camp – 1st
4. June 20-22, 2024 - Residential Day Camp – 2nd
5. June 23-29, 2024 – Camp David and Down (Friday ✓ out)
6. June 30-July 6, 2024 – Diabetes Camp (Friday ✓ out) – 1st
7. July 7-13, 2024 - Diabetes Camp (Friday ✓ out) – 2nd
8. July 14-20, 2024 - Camp Discovery
9. July 21-23, 2024 - Family Camp – 1st
10. July 25-27, 2024 - Family Camp – 2nd
11. July 28-30, 2024 - Family Camp – 3rd
12. Aug 1-2, 2024 - Family Camp – 4th

How to Send a Child to Texas Lions Camp – by Camp Director Chris Ryan

The 2024 schedule for Texas Lions Camp (TLC) has been announced! Please see the schedule at www.lionscamp.com.

The schedule has some exciting and innovative features to meet the expanding needs of the TLC family. President & CEO, Stephen Mabry, stated that for the first time in TLC's history, they will pilot an exciting new concept in camping, by combining family camp with the residential youth camp. This new program will be called "Residential Family Camp."

Camp Discovery will be returning to TLC after a five-year hiatus. It is a one-of-a-kind experience for children who have cancer.

How to send a child to camp-

1. Lions can be a huge help by **finding campers** to attend TLC. This can be done by contacting local rehabilitation centers, doctors, associations, and school principals and nurses.
2. You will want to **visit with parents of prospective campers**. Give them a TLC brochure or promotional flyer. If you do not have one, share the website with them. Tell them about the wonderful opportunities that await their child!
3. **Application help** - Direct parents to lionscamp.com to apply. *****Online registration for camp opens on Wednesday, January 3, 2024**. That will be here before we know it.

The application process involves the submittal of an in-depth application that includes:

- 1) Contact Information
- 2) Physical and Doctor's Permission
- 3) Lion Sponsor
- 4) Dietary requirements
- 5) Insurance information, and
- 6) Legal Waiver & Permission to Treat.

Parents can call TLC at (830) 896-8500 if they have any questions about the application process. The Lion sponsor should follow up with the family to ensure that all required forms are submitted.

4. **Arrange Transportation.** Transportation to and from the camp is the responsibility of the sponsoring Lions Club.

TLC is an amazing place where campers gain confidence and are accepted for who they are. They are not defined by their disabilities. Children are invited to make friends, have fun, and get involved in a safe and supportive environment.

As a Lion in the state of Texas, you make a positive difference in the life of a child at TLC. Thank you for your support of the camp. I hope you can help find a camper to attend this life-changing experience!

If you have questions about TLC or the above information, please contact District 2-A2 Camp Director Mary Ann Mays at mamays@gmail.com or me at chrisr1475@sbcglobal.net.

UIW Lions Club - Toys for Tots Drive

The UIW Lions Club recently participated in a Toys for Tots drive and have collected 166 toys in total this year. Students were given the opportunity to give those to the less fortunate and donate toys for our drive. We are so fortunate and loved participating in this event and will continue to be a part of this event for years to come! Go Cards.





Eagle Pass Border Lions Club – HEB Annual Feast of Sharing

The Eagle Pass Border Lions Club was blessed to be part of the annual HEB Feast of Sharing! We joined hands to spread warmth and joy in our community. Together, we make a difference!







Sign Up, Step Up, Catch Up



For Century Club - It's "Service from the Heart"

If you aren't a member of the TLC Century Club, please "Sign Up"; if you are a member, consider "Stepping Up" to the next level; and if you were a member but dropped out, consider "Catching Up" (i.e., come back in).

What is Texas Lions Camp Century Club? It's an individual annual giving program, and as such, it is giving from your own heart, independent of Club budgets or fund raisers. It is one of the life bloods of our operating budget, that in normal times sends up to 1500 children with special needs to Texas Lions Camp each summer, and yet less than 5% of Texas Lions are members.

Who can be a Century Club Member? Anyone can be a member. You don't have to be a Lion. It can be family or friends. You can even be a non-Texan, but it is our Texas Lions who are the backbone of the Century Club.

What does it cost to be a member? You can give your gift annually, or you can give monthly. A Bronze member is \$100 (\$10 if monthly); Silver is \$250; Gold \$500; Diamond is \$1,000; & Ambassador is \$5,000. Membership automatically renews each year, so members should join with the intention of making their same gift each year or even increasing their level.

How do I enroll or Step Up? Go to www.lionscamp.com, click on "Get Involved" and go to "Donate Now". There you will find "Ways to Give". Click that open and select "Century Club". If you scroll down, you will see the option to enroll online or to download and print out the form to send to the Camp directly.

Sign Up, Step Up, Catch Up is a drive to beef up our Century Club membership for the Texas Lions Camp, as a birthday present to Texas Lions Camp on its 75th Anniversary in 2024. Today we have half the number of Texas Lions, supporting twice the number of campers at over twice the cost, as we did some 30 years ago. If we reach our goal of an increase of \$60/mo. among the members of EACH club in Texas, we will generate an additional of \$575,000 ANNUALLY, which would generate 15% of our operating budget, and help us keep serving our special children into the future.

A \$60 increase from the members of each Texas Club is doable. "Signing Up" as a new Bronze member is a \$10/mo. increase (\$100 if pd. ann.); a new Silver is \$21/mo. (\$250/yr.); a Gold is \$42/mo.(\$500); etc. Likewise, "Stepping Up" from Bronze to Silver is an \$11/mo. increase; Bronze to Gold is a \$32/mo. increase; going from Silver to Gold is a \$21/mo. increase, etc.

\$575,000/year – now that's some 75th Birthday present!

There's a saying at TLC that "ALL CAN DO". Yes, Texas Lions, \$60/mo./club. WE CAN DO IT.

Texas Lions Camp 75th Anniversary Sheath

On the next page is an order blank for special lasered & hand-tooled knife sheaths. These fit the special Case knives with handles made from rock from Texas Lions Camp, which we have been selling the last 3 years. This knife is the one shown above the sheaths on the form. If you haven't seen them, the 2 bladed knife is beautifully lasered with the Lion's & TLC's logos, along with the words "Texas Lions Camp - children can with TLC". If you are interested in the knife, you can contact Lion Ken Jobe, whose info is on the form for the knife sheaths.

The timing is critical, because (like everything else) the price of leather is going up dramatically, according to the leather tooler, and our costs will double after the 1st weekend in February. This will obviously do the same thing to our selling prices. So, if you want one or more, get your order in now. Orders dated by February 5th will be honored at the rates on the form. (The form says January 31st, but they have agreed to let the current price stand through our Feb. Council meeting in Kerrville.)

These knife sheaths have the Camp's special 75th Anniversary Logo. I know many Lions don't have the current knife and it may not be available much longer to buy. However, a new TLC 75th Anniversary edition Case knife will be coming out soon with a handle made out of wood from the camp. They will also be laser engraved on one of the blades. They will fit in these knife sheaths. So this will be a chance to get a knife sheath for either or both knives before the prices soar.

PCC Tom Blase
1st Vice-Chairman, Executive Committee
Texas Lions Camp



Serving Children Since 1949

For the benefit of

Texas Lions Camp
75th Anniversary
Case "Trapper" Style Knife Sheath

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Shipping Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Handmade and tooled by JDS Leather, Kerrville, Texas

***ATTENTION: Prices will be going up drastically for all orders after Jan., 31st, 2023. Leather prices have doubled, but JDS Leather will hold these prices until then.**

<u>Style</u>	<u>Price</u> (each)	<u># ordered</u>	<u>Extended</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>Side of Belt</u>	
				# Right	# Left
Laser Sheath	\$40*	_____	\$_____	_____	_____
Laser & Tooled Sheath	\$50*	_____	\$_____	_____	_____
Laser & Tooled Sheath w/colored logo	\$60*	_____	\$_____	_____	_____
Subtotal of All Items			\$_____		
Add \$4 per Sheath for shipping			\$_____		
Total with shipping			\$_____		

Make Checks Payable to: District 2S1

Mail Checks to: PDG Ken Jobe, 4749 County Road 2590, Chester, TX 75936

(Hand tooling takes time, please allow at least 10-12 weeks for shipping.)