



## Lion District 2-A2 Newsletter [Issue 2 - August 2014]

From 1st VDG Jim Weed:



Well, here's my first article for the district newsletter as the 1st Vice District Governor. You may be expecting inspiring words of wisdom and profound statements to motivate the Lions of our district to go forth and perform miracles. If so, you are expecting way too much.

I just got home from our first cabinet meeting of 2014-12015. We met in Sabinal and if you were one of the Lions in attendance you know the wonderful job the Sabinal Lions did in hosting the meeting. A lot of important information is provided at the district meetings. The cabinet meetings also give us the opportunity to meet other Lions and share the successes and

challenges of our clubs. It is a great time to learn about projects and fund raisers your club might be able to do.

We're a month into the new Lions year and already District Governor Sam Pantusa has 2nd Vice District Governor John Lee and me running at a full gallop. DG Sam has instituted some changes in the way the district is organized this year, utilizing the experience and talents of our Past District Governors to assist our zone chairs and committees in fulfilling our commitments to our clubs and our communities. I have the luxury of watching to see what works and what might need tweaking in my year as Governor.

Under our district organization I have the honor of working with IPDG Rod Chisholm on the Global Membership Team (GMT). IPDG Rod has a proven track record of organizing new clubs, but GMT also works to help your club attract new members to join your club and retain the members you already have. I encourage you to call on us to help you be successful in keeping your club growing so you can expand service to your community.

Okay, so there are my motivational statements. Here are some words I find inspiring. Perhaps they'll inspire you too. Helen Keller wrote, "I cannot do everything, so let me not fail to do those things I can." We cannot meet every need in our communities, so let us find those needs we can meet. As we work to meet the needs of our communities, invite your neighbors to join you in your efforts as "we serve" as Lions.

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From DG Sam Pantusa:

FIRST DISTRICT CABINET MEETING of 2014-2015  
SABINAL TX.

Lions International President Joe Preston has issued his Theme for the 2014-2015 Lions Year and it is called "Strengthen the Pride". In his theme, President Preston talks about ways to become a better, stronger Club. He stresses bringing your Club members closer together by putting service, first. He tells us to work on ways to help your community become more aware of you. And he suggests the idea of maximizing your capability by partnering with other like-minded groups in the community. The Lions Club of Sabinal quite successfully accomplished all of that through the tremendous job that they did in hosting the First Cabinet Meeting of District 2-A2 for 2014-2015 on Saturday, July 26.

Through a combined effort of the Sabinal Lions Club, the Sabinal Chamber of Commerce, the Sabinal Independent School District and the Volunteer Fire Department, 184 members from District 2-A2, from 39 Clubs across the District were treated to great food and warm friendly hospitality as the District kicked off the new 2014-2015 year of service. The work was remarkable on the part of the Sabinal Lions, because the expectation was that the meeting attendees would number 130 to 140. As the numbers grew during the morning, the Sabinal troops scurried to quickly collect additional supplies and made preparations to serve a delicious fajita lunch to all 184. And they did a great job and displayed a great team effort. We are very grateful to them for the commitment to take on this task and the follow through to make it a success. Congratulations to the Sabinal Lions Club and the community of Sabinal, Texas. You made us feel at home. All Sabinal Lions made significant contributions of time and talent, but we wish to especially single out Lion Javier Flores, Lion Maggie Lopez, Lion Mando

Landeros, Lion Gene Vertuyft, Lion President Lupe De Leon and Lion Lupita De Leon for their leadership and support.

The opening of the meeting had a new twist which brought 2-A2 Lions who are military service veterans forward to serve as our own District color guard under the leadership of Lion Earnest Hamilton of Alamo City, USN, retired. Besides the US colors and the Texas flag, members carried their own service flags and Lion Lupe De Leon, Sabinal Lions President carried the Sabinal Club banner and posted it. Another twist was that a 2-A2 choral group lead by IPDG Rod with Lion Lajuana Newnam-Leus of Floresville, Lion Joyce Lawson of Converse and Lion Juanita Tijerina of SA Northwest lead the singing of "God Bless America" and "Deep in the Heart of Texas". They later sang the "Yellow Rose of Texas" and the new 2-A2 theme song, "Hearts as Big as Texas", which also uses the "Yellow Rose..." tune.

The Cabinet Meeting was a wonderful follow up to our highly successful 2013-2104 year under the leadership of, now, Immediate Past President Rod Chisholm and the International Convention in Toronto that so many of us attended in support of our own PID Mike Butler for 2nd Int. VP. And, so, it was fitting that we heard from PID Mike who energized the room as he reminded us of our responsibility to be great, of our closeness as family, and our duty to carry on our great tradition of service. And it was a privilege and pleasure to have him with us to congratulate all the Cabinet and Committee and Board Chairs that were installed by PCC Mike Rourke and a thrill to watch him help the LEOS of our Clubs form their new LEO District. PID Mike formalized the organization by serving as their Installing Officer. Congratulations to Lion Lee Gonen of Floresville, District LEO Advisor, and her assistant, Lion Janie Garza, for bringing the LEOS together and all the Club LEO Advisors for their dedication to this wonderful new beginning.

Some other things that were features of the Cabinet Meeting included an anniversary celebration of clubs having their (multiple in 5 years) 5th through 75th anniversaries in 2014 or 2015. And the big highlight of this activity was the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the SA Founders Club in 2015 and also

the 100th Birthday of Lion Floyd Carriker of the Kerrville Sunrise Lions. DG Sam had the help of the Lady Taitwisters (Lion Alice from 1st Ladies, Lion Paula from Carrizo Springs, Lion Letty from Natalia and Lion Ellie from Crystal City) in the anniversary celebrations and in honoring Lions who have served more than 40 years. Lion Bill Barker of Helotes was the last Lion standing in the room during a countdown of service years with his 47 years of dedicated service.

There were some very informative reports from our new IT Committee Chair, Lion Floyd Daigle; LSRF Chair and GMT Coordinator, IPDG Rod; Texas Lions Camp Director, Lion Steve Mays; Human Needs Board Chair, Lion Ken Book; Hearing Board Chair, Lion Lulu Garcia; Peace Poster Asst. Chair, Lion Monique Reardon of Helotes; Stride for Sight Chair and 1st VDG Jim Weed; and 2nd VDG John Lee and Lion Chris Condren, GLT Coordinator, who discussed leadership training resources available to all Clubs and members. During lunch time, PDG Chris Lloyd and Lion Janie Garza conducted a Q&A session concerning the Mobile Eye Screening Unit and our KidSight Program which added a lot of detailed information about the functioning of these vision screening programs with an invitation for all to make more use of them.

A new concept was initiated after the retiring of the national colors and adjournment of the meeting. Zone Meetings were conducted by Zone Chairs which was facilitated by having all Program and Board Chairs available for any questions.

I want to offer my thanks to all who worked so hard to prepare for this great meeting and even more thanks to all who attended. We plan to build from this beginning of the year and make each meeting this year better than the last.

DG Lion Sam

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District Governor Sam is building a calendar of Club Visits and he is anxious to schedule a visit to your Club.

Please do not hesitate to contact him by email at [spantusa@yahoo.com](mailto:spantusa@yahoo.com) or by phone at 210 326 3915 and he will do all in his power to meet the day and time that you wish for him to be there.

Be prepared for him to ask if you have any new members to be inducted.

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### Leos at the Friirst District Cabinet Meeting in Sabinal:

The Leos attending the District 2A2 First Cabinet Meeting formed the Leos District 2-A2 and elected officers.





District President - Leo Neil (Floresville)

District Vice President - Leo Nicole (Stockdale)

District Secretary - Leo Alexcis (Del Rio)

District Treasurer - Leo Katelyn (Alamo Heights)

DG Sam Pantusa



## From Chris Condren:

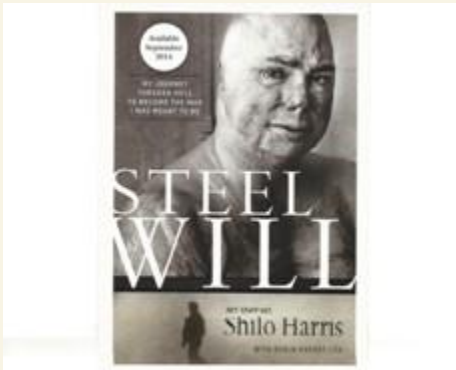
Fellow Lions,

As was mentioned at the Cabinet meeting if any club presidents, secretaries or treasurers need support with their job responsibilities please contact me @drake1432@yahoo.com or 210-573-1017. LCI also has very comprehensive information regarding club officer duties and responsibilities posted on their website and this is a great resource as you navigate the upcoming year.

This month I would like to highlight the webinars that LCI is offering. If you have not had the opportunity of viewing a webinar, it is simply an online tool to present information to large audiences. It is similar to viewing a one hour TV show from your computer. There is one webinar on August 28 entitled "Keeping Your Members: How to increase Member Satisfaction" and another on September 25 entitled "Post, Tweets, Hashtags? Social Media Works! Information about how to sign up for these Webinars is located on the LCI website. In addition, to these current webinars LCI maintains a Webinar Archive which you may find beneficial in club management.

Please remember that our own district 2A-2 website also has an abundance of resources including the district directory, newsletters and constitution.

If you should have any questions or need training, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above email or telephone number.



## ***Steel Will by Floresville Lion Shilo Harris***

On February 19, 2007, SSG Shilo Harris was patrolling an infamous southern Iraqi roadway when his Humvee was struck by

an IED. Moments later, three members of his crew were dead and Shilo had sustained severe injuries that would alter the course of his life. For forty-eight days he lay trapped in a medically induced coma as his wife, unable to ease his suffering, had to come to grips with a man utterly changed.

*To read more about his remarkable and inspiring story see*

<http://www.bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/steel-will/349820>



## Central Park Lions Donation

The members of Central Park Lions Club San Antonio were happy to be able to make an \$11,000 donation to the Texas Lions Camp in June this year. Steve Mabry, Texas Lions Camp CEO, was on hand to receive the donation and assured the members that it would be put to good use - most likely to help replace an "ailing" golf cart used during the camp sessions and a camp utility vehicle. "

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## Buffalo Valley Lions Club

### **Teen Dance Fundraiser**

**CALLING ALL TEENS!!**

The Buffalo Valley Lions Club hosts a Teen Dance on the last Friday of every month. It is held at the Schertz Community Center, 1400 Schertz Parkway in Schertz, Texas from 7:00pm -10:30pm. (Volunteers are always welcome to come help).

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## Edgewood Lions Club Bar-B-Q Plate Sale

**The Edgewood Lions Club Invites all Fellow  
Lions and Guests to come to our Annual Fall  
Bar-B-Q Plate Sale**

**Come and enjoy the best Bar-B-Q  
Brisket and Sausage East of Del Rio.**

**Come and be a part of the great fun and  
fellowship we always have while helping us  
to raise funds for our club.**

**Saturday, October 18, 2014  
11:00 m to 3:00pm  
Dine In or To Go**

**Plates may be picked up at  
Edgewood Fine Arts Academy Cafeteria  
607 S.W. 34th. Street**

**\$7.00 per plate**  
**To Purchase Tickets in advance please contact:**  
**PCC Michael “Mike” Rourke at 210-436-7787 or**  
**Lion Abel Martinez at 210-823-5681**

**Drinks and Desserts also Available**

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## Del Rio Host Lions PET project:

### GETTING PETS INTO MEXICO

For the past several years, Personal Energy Transportation (PET San Antonio) has had difficulty getting PETs into Mexico. But thanks to the persistence and coordination of the Del Rio Host Lions Club, they have been able to slowly get small numbers of the wheelchairs across the border. Once across, the Lions work with the Lions of Mexico to ensure that the PETs are delivered to those needing them. The picture below was taken at the DIF Center in Acuna, Mexico on April 10, 2014. DIF, the “National System for Integral Family Development,” is a Mexican public institution of social assistance that focuses on strengthening and developing the welfare of the Mexican families. Many thanks to the continuing efforts of Lion Mac McCain, Lion Rodney Martinez, and the Del Rio Host Lions Club for their assistance in taking the PETs and getting them to the people of Mexico. This distribution took the cooperative efforts of four Lions Clubs from two countries working together to be successful.



### 38th Annual USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum:

San Juan, Puerto Rico is the place to be for the 38th Annual USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum to be held September 11 – 13, 2014. For more information about this exciting opportunity, see

<https://usacanadalionsforum.org/index.html>