

The New Communiqué

District 45 – Vermont Lions Charities *District Governor Lion Bruce Bushey* **In Lionism, In Service, in Friendship**

January, 2010

Volume 31, Number 4
Published by
Vermont Lions Charities, Inc.
P.O. Box 266
So. Strafford, VT 05070
And District 45 of
Lions Clubs International

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More than 750 Vermont Lions now get this by email. This issue is by email and snail-mail. We have been working hard to get all the email addresses of our Vermont Lions. It is saving the District thousands of dollars and the volunteers a lot of time.

Notice: The deadline for the next issue is February 15.

Email:

communiqué@d45lions.com

District Governor Bruce Bushey writes:

Wow! It's January already, where have the months gone? I have visited 32 clubs to date and had a lot of fun doing it, thanks to my Vergennes Lions traveling with me. We certainly have learned a lot about Lions work around Vermont.

Of course many tales have been told, keeping us awake on those late night trips, but they stay in the car. All the clubs have been very welcoming and wonderful hosts. There are great projects out there; it is my pleasure to share those projects around the state.

Each club is unique in its' own way, but the theme appears to be membership as prime concern for most. I have inducted new members in a lot of clubs during my visits. Keep up the good work. The November report from LCI showed that D-45 was up a bit for the month. We are up three members for the month, from 1286 to 1289, keep up the good work. I really think we can make D-45 a plus membership district this year.

My District Governor year is going fast and, in my opinion, great. The reason is the team I have backing me up. CST Mike O'Daniel knows what I want before I ask. I think he reads my mind. The MERL team is working hard on getting three new clubs going and we'll have a new LEO Club in Manchester next month.

My communications team has spent a great deal of time developing a new Communiqué that really does communicate with the district Lions. More than 750 members are now on the district Lion email list, allowing almost instant communication with members through special *e*-Communiqué issues.

The next cabinet meeting is January 16th at the Burlington Elks Club. I hope to see you at the cabinet meeting and the district Super Raffle that evening. Details were sent out in a special *e*-Communiqué in early December. If you did not get it, ask your Secretary or President about it. All email members received it and those without email were supposed to get it from their club officers. We have saved thousands of dollars for D-45 with the new communications system. If you have email and you are not on the list, you are really missing out. Send your name and club information to: communiqué@d45lions.com.



Food from the Heart

It began last year on a small scale; in 2010 this program goes state wide, all of District 45. Program chair PID Tom Broughton is requesting all clubs participate in collecting foods and household items on Saturday, February 13. DG Bruce Bushey has made this program a priority for District 45 this year.

All clubs should have received an information flier and poster to help with your “food raising” program. You conduct this program at your local grocery store for the benefit of your local food shelf. With today’s economic hard times, more and more people find themselves in need of a helping hand. We, as Lions, have the strength and ability to help our neighbors in times of need. After a cold December and January, the needs have been met, but the food supplies are depleted at the food shelf.

How does this work? Your club should advertise the program in the local papers and make sure folks know what the Lions are doing on February 13. A good public service announcement (PSA) in the paper or even on local radio station is a

great way to get the word out. Arrange with the grocery store to be part of their day on February 13.

The secret to making this work is having Lions in place, all day, at the store. They will hand out “the list” of needed food or household items. The list reminds shoppers what to buy to contribute to the food shelf needs. We are asking shoppers to contribute what they are comfortable with, as they will be purchasing these items to donate. Make sure your Lions are wearing a Lions vest to be identified.

The job, at the end of the day, is simply to deliver the collected items to the food shelf. PID Broughton says that we can get more than 40,000 lbs. of food items if all 40 clubs participate. This is an excellent way for clubs of all sizes to make a large impact on the community; with a modest investment of quality time working together with your fellow Lions. Working in pairs, two hour shifts would certainly not be overwhelming to any Lion. Make sure you have enough “lists” to hand out.

For more information contact PID Lion Tom Broughton at 802.758.2494 or by email, tbrought@middlebury.edu.



The District Governor’s Calendar

District Governor Bushey will be traveling around the state again in January. His schedule has been very busy with “official” club visitations. He reports nine more clubs to visit. It is a great experience to visit a club and learn about all the good being done by Lions around Vermont.

Of course there are problems to be solved and help to be provided to the members and officers. DG Bruce has been inducting new members during his visits, a real highpoint in a club visitation. DG Busheys’ calendar for January and February visits is as follows:

January 4, Whitingham-Halifax

January 5, Route 100 in Rochester

January 12, South Burlington

January 18, Middlebury

January 19, Shelburne

January 20, Derby

January 25, Strafford Area

February 3, Vergennes

February 17, Chester

February 28, Manchester, the chartering of the new LEO Club.

Tid-bits from Clubs

The **Bennington Lions** held their 47th Annual Christmas Party for the visual and hearing impaired with 22 guests. Santa handed out gift cards, there was music and caroling and a raffle of many prizes. Also in December, the Bennington Club bought three pairs of eyeglasses and donated \$291 to the Interfaith Council fund for fuel and food.

The **Heartland Lions** are sponsoring a Valentines Benefit Dinner-Dance on February 13 at the Fireside Inn & Suites in West Lebanon, NH. The dance will feature The Blue Roosters band. The grand prize will be a travel gift certificate worth \$1,500. The cost is \$100 per couple. Call Carol Greene for details, 802.291.3750 or email, carol.a.greene@dartmouth.edu.

Springfield Lions have inducted five new



Lions. Congratulations! Welcome to these new Lions: Carol Hakey of Chester, Paul Gibbs, Kevin Anderson, Christian Collins and Jay Young of Springfield. Good work Springfield.

The **Norshaft Lions** changed their annual Christmas Party to a program to help the community and still had fun. Instead of exchanging gifts they collected more than 300 lbs. of foods for the local food shelf. The members also bring food to their regular meetings for local food shelf sources. Shown here is 300 lbs. being delivered to St. John's Catholic Church Food Shelf, Lion Walter Merritt is on the right.



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District Peace Poster Winners

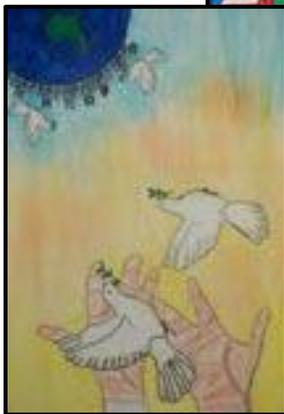
Lion Julie Simpson, St. Johnsbury, has announced the District winners of the annual Lions Club International contest. She reports that eight clubs sponsored local programs. The winner goes on to the LCI contest. The first place winner is Grace Yu from Albert Lawton School in Essex Jct. Jasmin Dickerson from the



Pownal Elementary School won second place. Her school was



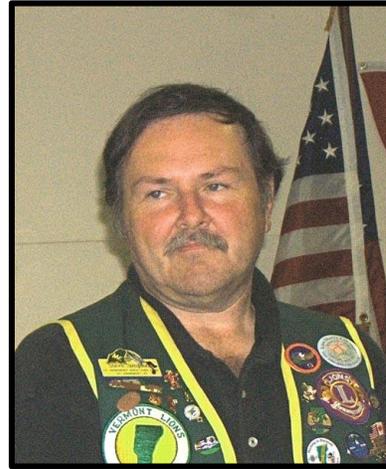
sponsored by the Bennington Lions. The third place winner is Joshua Wolfstein of the Renaissance School, sponsored by the Shelburne Lions Club.



Chair Simpson was very pleased with the participation in the 2009 contest noting, "dozens of students participated. Schools must be arranged in the spring to be ready to go in September."

Lion Steve Simpson Announces for VDG

King Lion Steve Simpson of the St. Johnsbury Lions Club has announced his candidacy for Vice District Governor, 2010-11, and District Governor, 2011-12.



Simpson was a member of the Troy & Area Lions for six years. He left Lionism for a few years to continue his education, returning to Lionism in 2006 by joining the St.

Johnsbury Lions Club. He has worked on most club committees since joining St. J and this year serves as King Lion. He is a key member, having brought in four new members for his club.

Steve was named D-45 Lion of the Year and received the International Presidents Award at the 2009 district convention. He participated in the 2009 USA Canada Forum for leadership training. This past fall he went to Oakbrook, IL to attend a special leadership program at LCI headquarters.

Lions Quest Going Strong in Rutland

Lion George Bilodeau, Georgia Lions, shared with the editors a report from the teachers who are working with the Lions Quest program in their schools in Rutland Town Schools.

Several teachers attending the three day training program to start a school district wide initiative to provide children with the life skills they can utilize as they grow up. The Lions Quest program starts with kindergarten and continues through high school. The focus of the program is social and emotional learning, building a positive climate, school and family connections and service learning. The program is being piloted in Rutland Town with grades 1,2,3 and 8. Nine teachers are involved and speaking highly of the program. The report says, "We are very excited about the positive impact these projects and lessons have on our students and the entire school community and look forward to reporting more in the future."

Contact Lion Bilodeau at 802.527.0313 or gabilode@comcast.net for more information.

Officers for 2010-11

Planning ahead is the key to success. King Lion Steve in his January newsletter to St. Johnsbury Lions says: "With it being December, I would like each of you to start thinking about what position you would like to serve in for the 2010-2011 year. We will be presenting the list of officer nominees to the board and membership in March and then the full membership votes on it at the 1st meeting in April."

Yes folks, elections are coming up. It's time for members to plan ahead and for the officers to make sure all members are in a planning phase.

Vermont Lions Charities Report

Fellow Lions:

I take this opportunity to wish all D-45 Lions a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

One year has passed since I was elected president of Vermont Lions Charities, Inc. It has been a whirlwind of activity with many more requests for assistance and two successful projects to boost our finances. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, to everyone who has helped to make my job easier and a happy place to be.

PID Jules Coté graciously took the time to introduce me to our benefactors, Ron Eastman and Rob Hirsch. They were instrumental in establishing the Shared Vision Fund. He also introduced me to Frank Gibney, a Burlington Lion, and administrator of *The Gibney Family Foundation*. All are great supporters of Vermont Lions projects. These individuals were very pleased to hear about the work their generosity allows. They have expressed their desire to continue helping us in the future. Meeting these folks was a highlight of my first year as VLC president.

As Lions, let's support the upcoming D-45 projects such as the *Super Raffle* (January 16), the *Food from the Heart* campaign (February 13) and the *Vermont Lions Charities Walk-a-thon* in Rutland (May 8).

A very special thanks to my officers, who are all very dedicated to the needs of Vermont Lions, and my partner in life and community service, Lion Jackie.

Lion Rick Dutil

More Happening in D-45

Jericho-Underhill Lions reported three new Lions on their November report, welcome Lions Lou Wilson, Don Foote and Ed Fanning. We're sure your club will keep you busy with lots of Lions work. The club made several donations during the month, including \$200 to the Mount Mansfield UHS Music Department. The most delicious work was the pie sales raising them \$300.

Pittsford Lions report a new Lion, Steven Kellogg, formerly of the Middlebury Club.

The **Vergennes Lions** prepared 37 Thank-giving boxes for needy families in the area, at a cost of \$717. They opened their used eye glass collection deposit box in November and found 200 pairs inside. (It's an old mail deposit box, refurbished many years ago; it is hosted by Shaw's grocery store.)

Knights of the Blind

Helen Keller is a great inspiration to Lions. She has been a shining light to people all around the world for generations. She said, "*It's a terrible thing to see, and have no vision.*"

Do you have a vision, a goal, a plan, and a mission for your life? Isaiah wrote, without a vision the people perish. Great leaders are always great visionaries, they have an internal picture of where they are going; they are fixated on their vision. What's your vision for your Lions Club, your community, your country?

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