



LEGACY OF THE DENVER LIONS CLUB: A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY | DWIGHT STEEN



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LEGACY OF THE DENVER LIONS CLUB

A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY
BY DWIGHT STEEN



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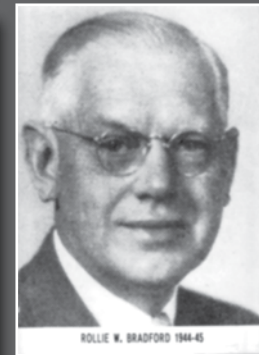
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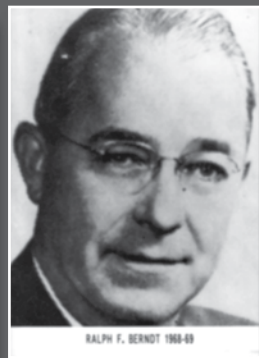
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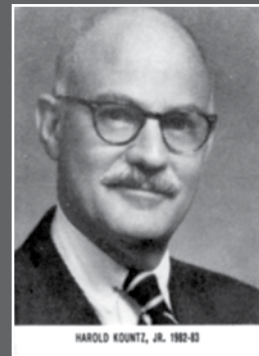
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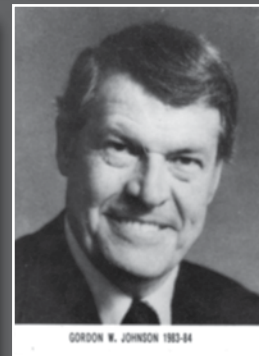
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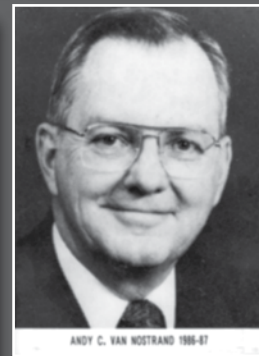
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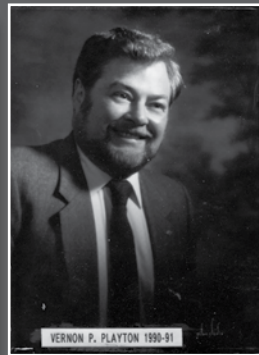
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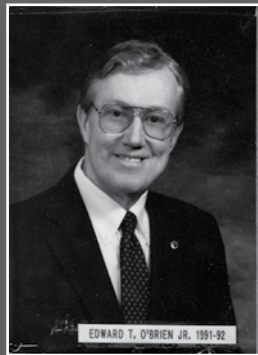
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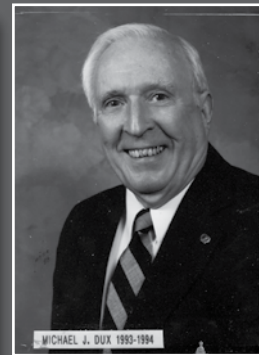
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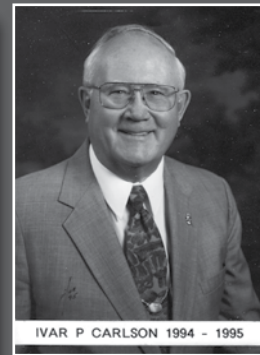
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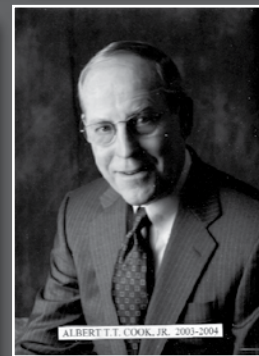
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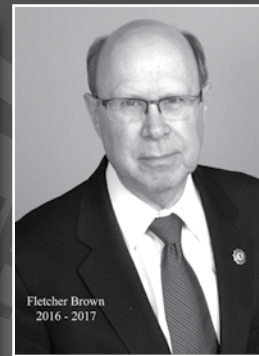
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LEGACY OF THE DENVER LIONS CLUB

A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

BY DWIGHT STEEN



THE
DONNING COMPANY
PUBLISHERS

DEDICATED TO
Kenneth Kendal King
1901-1992

By dedicating this legacy book to Kenneth Kendal King, the Denver Lions Club recognizes and honors the outstanding contributions of this extraordinary Denver Lion, successful businessman, and generous Denver philanthropist. As one of the founders of the Denver Lions Foundation, he provided the catalyst for impacting thousands of lives in the community each year. He contributed financially to the mission, and his legacy continues to support Denver Lions service activities through the Kenneth Kendal King Foundation.

- Lions Club of Denver Member, 1942-1992
- President, Denver Den, 1952-53
- District Governor, 1959-1960
- Founded the Denver Lions Foundation in 1952
- Melvin Jones Fellow, 1988
- Ambassador of Good Will appointed by Lions International
- President Jorge Bird of Puerto Rico, 1968



Kenneth K. King

Left photograph on cover: Skyline of Denver in 2016, the Second Century Challenge for the Denver Lions Club. *Photo courtesy of Denver Lion Sam McKenzie.*

Right photograph on cover: The Albany Hotel, built in the 1880s, was home to the Denver Lions Club until the 1970s when the hotel was razed. *Photo courtesy of the Denver Public Library*

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The Donning Company Publishers
731 South Brunswick Street
Brookfield, MO 64628

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

On file with the Library of Congress

ISBN: 978-1-68184-099-4

Printed in the United States of America at Walsworth

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dedication2

Letter from John L. Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado4

Proclamation from Michael B. Hancock, Mayor of Denver5

Letter from Robert “Bob” E. Corlew, President of Lions Clubs International6

Foreword by Dr. Tom Noel, Professor of History, University of Colorado7

Preface.....9

Acknowledgments.....9

Chapter 1: The Genesis of Lions Clubs 10

Chapter 2: Formation of Lions Foundations..... 32

Chapter 3: Signature Community Service Projects..... 40

Chapter 4: A Look Back – Anniversaries, Conventions, and Notable Members 62

Chapter 5: The Second Century..... 76

Appendix A: Legacy Book Sponsors 86

Appendix B: Past Presidents of the Denver Lions Club 87

Appendix C: Past Presidents of the Denver Lions Foundation 89

Appendix D: Melvin Jones Fellows 90

Appendix E: Lion of the Year 91

References..... 92

Index 93

About the Cover 95

About the Author 96



August 30, 2016

Greetings:

On behalf of the State of Colorado, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Lions Club of Denver on its 100th Anniversary.

For the last century, the Denver Lions Club has maintained a vital role in serving the people of the Denver community. Among the many services it provides, the Denver Lions Club and its members are doing outstanding work to support eye care and sight by providing Kidsight screening to thousands of Denver school children each year and providing eye examinations and eyeglasses for the needy. The Denver Lions Club is also dedicated to serving Denver area families and youth through support of the Rude Park Day Care Center, Savio House for home and community based services, and the Colorado Lions Camp.

Again, I would like to express my congratulations to the Lions Club of Denver for 100 impactful years. Thank you for all you do to make Colorado great!

Sincerely,

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

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Proclamation

WHEREAS, *The Lions Clubs of Denver, one of the founding clubs of the Lions Clubs International in October 1917, is celebrating its 100th anniversary; and*

WHEREAS, *the members of the Lions Club of Denver serve the community through thousands of hours of service each year, demonstrating their acceptance of the challenge from Helen Keller to be "Knights of the Blind"; and*

WHEREAS, *the Denver Lions through the Denver Lions Foundation screens the eyes of thousands of children under their KidsSight program, providing eye exams, eyeglasses, eye surgeries and hearing aids to income qualified children and adults; and*

WHEREAS, *Savio House, a project of the Denver Lions, recently celebrated 50 years of providing comprehensive youth and family services; and*

WHEREAS, *Rude Park Day Care Center, a project of Denver Lions, provides comprehensive day care for children of low income families; and*

WHEREAS, *Denver has become a global city, and the Denver Lions play their part by expanding the reach of their eye mission — distributing used eye glasses around the world, assisting with disaster relief efforts and hosting four international conventions in Denver receiving thousands of people from around the world.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL B. HANCOCK, MAYOR of the City and County of Denver, Colorado, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby officially proclaim **OCTOBER 2017**, to be known as:

"DENVER LIONS CLUB CENTENNIAL MONTH"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City and County of Denver to be affixed this 1st day of October, 2017

MICHAEL B. HANCOCK
MAYOR





Lions Clubs International

300 W 22ND STREET • OAK BROOK ILLINOIS 60523-8842 USA • 630.571.5466



Chancellor Bob Corlew
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

July 27, 2016

Dear Members of the Denver Lions Club:

I wish to offer my sincere congratulations to you as your club celebrates its first century of service. As one of the twenty-three founders of Lionism, your club has contributed, not only to the Denver community but also to the formation of the International Association. The strong leadership of Past International Presidents Dr. C.C. Reid (1920-21) and Mr. Richard J. Osenbaugh (1935-36), both members of your club, helped create the framework that enabled the international association to grow to over 47,000 clubs and 1.4 million members worldwide. In addition, your club served the association by providing several International Directors and a number of District Governors and other officers.

While your club can be proud of its role in making our association what it is today, you can take even more pride in the very successful community service activities that have been supported during the century. For forty years, the Denver Lions provided milk for undernourished Denver Public School children. You created the Rude Park Day care center that allows mostly single mothers to work and support their families. Your club has had a major role in Savio House that helps “at-risk youth to return to mainstream society. Your club had the lead role in creating the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute, a state-of-the-art patient care, teaching, and research eye center. These major and on-going activities are just the tip of the iceberg. Your club is also involved in eye exams, eyeglasses, eye surgeries, and hearing aids for income qualified individuals, and one of the leaders in the KidSight program. You continue to work with the 9Health Fairs, the Salvation Army, recycling eyeglasses, and international eye missions.

This first century of service by the Denver Lions club is indeed very impressive. It demonstrates a commitment to the ideals of Lionism, and underscores the fact that “where there’s a need, there’s a Lion.

Even as you celebrate your illustrious past, I know the Denver Lions will be an integral part of our future - always striving to address the needs of your community, always ascending to the top of the next mountain, and contributing to the overall success of Lions Clubs International - the global leader in humanitarian service.

Very truly yours,

www.lionsclubs.org

FOREWORD

By Tom “Dr. Colorado” Noel

Today, the Lions Club of Denver convenes every Tuesday from September to June for a convivial lunch of civic-minded men and women. They meet at Maggiano’s restaurant in the Pavilions on 16th Street in downtown Denver. This lively gathering has fun, but it also explores and discusses an awesome range of community causes. A featured speaker discusses a wide range of topics, focused on a community need or Lions’ related matters. As you will see in the following pages, these Lions have good reason—upon their 100th year in 2017—to roar.

The Denver Lions Club was organized on June 26, 1917. This was one of the world’s first Lions clubs. Later that year, the Denver Club sent delegates to the first convention in Dallas, where Lions Clubs International was founded. Melvin Jones, the Chicago businessman who had the idea of converting business clubs into community service clubs, led the International Association for over forty years. The hope was to attract a diverse range of men of all occupations and backgrounds interested in civic betterment.

The International Association chose “We Serve” as a motto. Denver charter member Joseph Schwartz designed the Lions lapel pin now worn by members all over the globe. The Club held its Tuesday meetings in the now-gone Albany Hotel at the corner of 17th and Stout Streets, five blocks from the Denver Den’s current meeting place. Members receive the *Lions Club Magazine*, a monthly launched in 1918, and now published in print and digitally in twenty languages worldwide. The Denver Den began publishing its own newsletter in 1923. After trying out *The Mile High Roar*, *the Den-Ver-Den* and *The Roarer*, the Denver Club settled on the current name—*Roarings*—for the weekly bulletin.

Lions clubs multiplied rapidly across the United States and internationally and continue to do so, reaching an all-time peak in 2016 of 1,410,605 members in 46,912 clubs in 205 countries. After the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union, communities in many Soviet Republics established Lions clubs. The inclusion of women as full members by the International Association in 1987 also pumped up the numbers, as well as the looks and behavior of many clubs. Earlier, the Denver Den had a Women’s Auxiliary, and the International Lions Club created a Lioness Program in 1975. Leo clubs for high school and college-aged youth were established in 1957.

Lions found their major cause at their 1925 International Convention when Helen Keller, the famous, blind champion of the blind, gave an unforgettable speech challenging the Lions to become “the knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness.” Inspired Lions clubs thereafter made sight conservation and service to the blind their main community service.

The commitment of Lions to internationalism led them to partner in 1945 with the newly formed United Nations on worldwide eye-health programs such as SightFirst. On the home front, Lions crusaded, beginning in 1930, to get white canes to the blind after one Lion noted that blind folks had trouble crossing streets. By 1956, every state had passed white-cane laws. Lions launched White Cane Day to educate the world about blindness and how the visually impaired can live and work independently and become community assets.



Lions’ sense of humor and camaraderie is exemplified by the tradition of having “tail twisters” who promote practical jokes and reprimand and fine members for infractions such as not wearing their lapel pin, failure to sing the “Hi! Hi!” song to guests, arriving late, or allowing their cell phone to ring during meetings. The Denver Den took to tail twisting from the very beginning. One of their most memorable pranks was to ship a railcar of snow to the 1924 International Convention in Omaha. There, they cooled off delegates with a snowball fight in July.

In 1952, the Denver Den created the nonprofit Denver Lions Foundation to facilitate fund-raising and charitable giving. Since its creation, the Foundation has given away an estimated \$2.5 million. Expanding its missions beyond eye care, the Denver Den added three more priorities: Social Services, Youth Services, and Hearing Conservation.

As Helen Keller had urged, sight conservation remains the main mission of the Denver Den. With support from other Lions clubs in Colorado and Wyoming, \$6 million was raised for the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute on the Anschutz Medical Campus of the University of Colorado. Today, that institute—with a faculty and research staff of seventy-six professionals—serves more than ninety-five thousand patients a year, and conducts state-of-the-art eye research.

The Denver Den has had a myriad of other programs during its century of service: a Boys Club House in Morrison (1920); the Milk Fund (1921 to 1961) for malnourished schoolchildren; donating candy to the Denver Santa Claus Shop for underprivileged children; providing members as bell ringers for the Salvations Army’s Christmas fund-raising; building the Eisenhower Chapel (1957) on the second floor of the Denver Club Building; supporting Savio House, a residential care facility for needy boys; supporting Channel 9 television’s 9Health Fair since its 1980 beginning; supporting the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank since 1982; building the Rude Park Day Care Center and various playgrounds; and collecting used eyeglasses.

The Denver Den starts its second century in 2017 by continuing to honor the Lions’ motto, “We Serve.” Denver, Colorado, and the world are a better place for all that the Lions do. As Denver Den stalwart Dwight Steen reveals in the following pages, the Denver Lions Club has reason not just to roar, but to purr.



Tom “Dr. Colorado” Noel

PREFACE

This legacy book is the vehicle chosen by the Denver Lions Club to commemorate the tremendous work of the members who have so ably served the community for the past hundred years. Their efforts throughout the past century have had a significant and lasting impact, and they have met the needs of thousands of people in our community and even the world. We stand in awe of these accomplishments and believe there is no better way to acknowledge that legacy than to record it. That record also provides motivation and confidence to both current and future members of the Denver Lions Club as they take on the community service challenges of the next century.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As with any project like this one, many people have been involved. Without a doubt, the Club archives provided the greatest resources for this book, so a huge amount of thanks goes to the many members who over the years have maintained files, including meeting minutes, newsletters, photographs, newspaper clippings, and reports of activities. Another important source of information has been the memories of many members. The Denver Club is fortunate to have fourteen current members who have served the Club and the community for more than forty years. Their memories of events and activities have been especially helpful.



Life Members with forty years of active service. Front row, left to right: Lions Louis Orzolek, Emerson Bails, Russell Lynn, Dean Troyer, and Al Patton. Back row, left to right: Lions Robert Backus, Robert Sweeney, George Custard, Harold Hein, Len McCain, and William MacDougall.

Many members of the Club have provided encouragement to me during the research and writing of the manuscript. A special thanks to the Legacy Book Committee, made up of Lions Fletcher Brown, Terry Lutts, Myrna Ann Adkins, Doug Brown, and Ned Nagle. Lions Terry Lutts and Myrna Ann Adkins provided valuable assistance in editing the manuscript and making suggestions for improvement. Fletcher Brown also provided suggestions and many of the more recent photographs.

The careful review of the manuscript by historian Dr. Tom Noel was especially appreciated. He made a number of suggestions for adding value and historical context. He also wrote the foreword, which provides an excellent overview of the history of the Denver Lions Club.



These are a few of the friendship banners received by Denver Den members that hang in the Club office.

CHAPTER 1

THE GENESIS OF LIONS CLUBS

THE ADVENT OF SERVICE CLUBS GIVES BIRTH TO THE LIONS

The concept of service clubs was born in the United States. Prior to World War I, service clubs were in their embryonic stage. Some of the early clubs were organized around social objectives, some had civic goals, and still others were business oriented. This fledgling movement had not discovered a unifying purpose. Some believe that the war influenced the desire among men to do something to improve their communities and promote better understanding. Henry Ford provided an example in 1915 when he took a number of American businessmen to Europe to put an end to the World War. The *New York Times* headline read, “Great War to End Christmas Day: Ford to Stop It.” Most men realized they had little ability to affect the outcome of the war, so they turned to improving their own communities. Whatever the stimulus, service clubs began to appear on the American scene by 1915.

Service clubs had various names, including Lions clubs, but the Business Circle of Chicago, organized in 1908, is credited as being the origin of the Lions. In 1913, Melvin Jones joined the Business Circle, a businessmen’s luncheon group devoted solely to promoting the financial interests of their membership. He thought, “What if these men who are successful because of their drive, intelligence, and ambition were to put their talents to work improving their communities?” Thus, in May 1917, he wrote letters to approximately fifty service clubs inviting them to send delegates to a meeting in Chicago. Delegates came from Lions clubs, Optimist clubs, Vortex clubs, Cirgonian clubs, and more. At the meeting on June 7, 1917, there was agreement to form an International Association. Since there were more Lions delegates than any other group, they prevailed in keeping the name.

Later in 1917, the First International Lions Clubs Convention was held in Dallas. Delegates from twenty-three clubs attended (two of them from Colorado—Denver and Colorado Springs). They adopted the Constitution and By-Laws, and they elected the following international officers:

- Dr. W. P. Woods, Evansville, Indiana
President
- Mr. L. H. Lewis, Dallas, Texas
First Vice President
- Mr. E. N. Kaercher, St. Louis, Missouri
Second Vice President
- Mr. H. M. Mayers, Denver, Colorado
Third Vice President
- Mr. Melvin Jones, Chicago, Illinois
Secretary/Treasurer



Melvin Jones, born on January 13, 1879, in Fort Thomas, Arizona, was the son of a United States Army captain who commanded a troop of scouts. Later, his father was transferred and the family moved east. As a young man, Melvin Jones made his home in Chicago, Illinois; he became associated with an insurance firm, and in 1913 formed his own agency.

He soon joined the Business Circle, a businessmen’s luncheon group, and was shortly elected secretary. This group was one of many at that time devoted solely to promoting the financial interests of their membership. Because of their limited appeal, they were destined to disappear. Melvin Jones, then a thirty-eight-year-old Chicago business leader, had other plans. *Photo courtesy of Lions International*



Argonaut Wine & Liquor congratulates the Denver Lions Club for one hundred years of service to the community.





Proceedings from the First International Convention, Dallas 1917

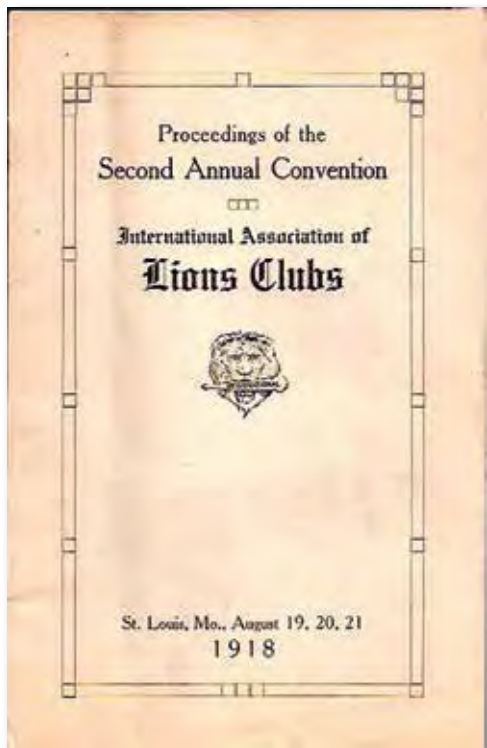
Dr. W. P. Woods was the president of the Lions Club of Evansville, Indiana, and one of the leaders who attended the meeting in Chicago, where it was agreed to form an international association. In the years leading up to the 1917 convention, Mr. E. A. Hicks—at the direction of Dr. W. P. Woods—worked as a field organizer of Lions clubs. From 1915 to 1918, Mr. Hicks organized Lions clubs in Texas, Colorado, Utah, Washington, Louisiana, California, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Iowa. A \$10 fee charged to each member of a new club that he formed financed his work. Mr. Hicks had organized many of the twenty-three clubs that sent delegates to the first convention.

The Mission statement of the Lions Clubs International was developed during that first convention as follows:

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

The Vision statement of Lions International is:

To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.



Proceedings from the Second International Convention, St. Louis 1918

It was April 1917 when the United States Congress declared war against Germany, and the armistice ending that war was signed in November 1918. In the midst of this, the Great War, the first Lions clubs were formed and the International Association was created. Early 1918 saw the construction of World War I Army Hospital Number 21, renamed Fitzsimons Army Hospital in 1920. Fitzsimons Army Base later became the site of the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank and the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute. It was built on 577 acres in Aurora, then a city of one thousand inhabitants. The main building (known as Building 500) was built in 1941, and at that time it was the largest building in Colorado. This building, now a National Register landmark, still stands on what is now called the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical campus.

In addition to the adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws for the International Association, the delegates at the first convention passed a motion to retain the name Lions, adopted the original Lions emblem, selected the colors purple and gold as the official colors, and authorized Melvin Jones to open an office in Chicago. Melvin Jones eventually abandoned his insurance agency to devote himself full time to Lions at the International Headquarters in Chicago. It was under his dynamic leadership that Lions clubs earned the prestige necessary to attract civic-minded members all over the world.

The January 1931 *Lions Club Magazine* contains this interpretation of the Association's name:

Our name was not selected at random, neither was it a coined name. From time immemorial, the lion has been the symbol of all that was good, and because of the symbolism that name was chosen. Four outstanding qualities—Courage, Strength, Activity and Fidelity—had largely to do with the adoption of the name. The last mentioned of those qualities, Fidelity, has a deep and peculiar significance for all Lions. The lion symbol has been a symbol of Fidelity through the ages and among all nations, ancient and modern. It stands for loyalty to a friend, loyalty to a principle, loyalty to a duty, loyalty to a trust.

The United States had entered World War I just six months prior to the convention. The delegates voted to support the war effort and the Liberty Loan (war bonds) program. The international secretary was instructed to transmit a copy of that motion of support to President Woodrow Wilson.

PURPOSE AND ETHICS

Neither the Purpose nor the Code of Ethics has changed appreciably over the past hundred years. It is remarkable how both the Purpose and the Code of Ethics have been widely accepted and embraced across international borders and across cultures. Legend has it that Melvin Jones made an exhaustive study of every code found in history. He examined the thoughts of Hammurabi of Babylon (2250 BC), the Napoleonic Code, the Mosaic Commandments, and the Justinian Codex. He was struck by one common feature to all of them: they were all legal codes filled with negative commands. What the Lions developed is a leadership code made up of positive commands. It has served the organization very well.

Lions Clubs International Purpose:

- **To Organize**, charter, and supervise service clubs to be known as Lions clubs.
- **To Coordinate** the activities and standardize the administration of Lions clubs.
- **To Create** and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
- **To Promote** the principles of good government and good citizenship.
- **To Take** an active interest in the civic, cultural, social, and moral welfare of the community.
- **To Unite** the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship, and mutual understanding.
- **To Provide** a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.
- **To Encourage** service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works, and private endeavors.



Lions Clubs Code of Ethics:

- **To Show** my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.
- **To Seek** success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.
- **To Remember** that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.
- **Whenever** a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards others, to resolve such doubt against myself.
- **To Hold** friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.
- **Always** to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state, and my community, and to give them my unswerving loyalty in word, act, and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor, and means.
- **To Aid** others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.
- **To Be Careful** with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

THE DENVER LIONS CLUB IS FORMED

By 1920, the city of Denver ranked twenty-fifth in size in the United States with a population of 256,941 inhabitants. Even though Denver was small, it was beleaguered with many of the same problems as the larger cities in the East: unemployment, slum neighborhoods, crime, and poverty. City and county government agencies either had not been developed or did not have the resources to deal with the problems of rapid population growth and a deteriorating economic situation. In this setting, there were many opportunities for community service.

Mr. E. A. Hicks had been in touch with Dr. Charles C. Reid, a Denver-based osteopath. On June 1, 1917, Mr. E. A. Hicks met with seven leading businessmen who had been invited by Dr. Reid. They enthusiastically supported the idea of forming a club devoted to community service and they put together a list of potential members. Another meeting was held a week later with twenty-five men present, and a temporary organization was created. After a few more meetings in that same month, the charter was closed on June 26 with fifty-three members. By October 1917, the organization was perfected, and Dr. Reid was elected president.

The Constitution of the Denver Lions Club (also affectionately known as the Denver Den) set a maximum membership level of two hundred. The organizers of the Club wanted members to have a personal relationship with one another, so they established a maximum. At this time, the Constitution also stipulated that each professional classification could have only one member.



A newspaper clipping about Golden Charter Night in 1943, with four hundred Lions in attendance.



Denver Club members took a special train to Golden for Charter Night in 1943, as gasoline was rationed due to the war.





Presenting the charter to the new Stapleton Airport Club in 1964. Left to right: Lions Bob Lundberg, LCI; H. I. Magoun, Denver; Herman Flax, DG; Wayne Roenkrans, president of Stapleton; Thursty Jenkins, president of Denver; and Judge Neil Horan, Denver.

Initially, the Denver Lions held weekly luncheon meetings at different locations in the city in order to spread their patronage. However, they eventually held most luncheons and maintained the Club office in the Albany Hotel, which ironically was managed by a Rotarian.

The Denver Lions Club sponsored the creation of the Douglas County Lions Club (1922), the Englewood Lions Club (1926), the Golden Lions Club (1942), the Denver Skyline Lions Club (1961), the Denver International Airport Lions Club (Stapleton), which moved and is now the Centennial Airport Lions Club (1964), the Mile High Lioness Club (1984) (the International Association established Lioness clubs for ladies in 1975), the Denver Park Hill Lions Club (1984), the Littleton Leo Club (2016), and the Denver Stapleton Lions Club (2016).



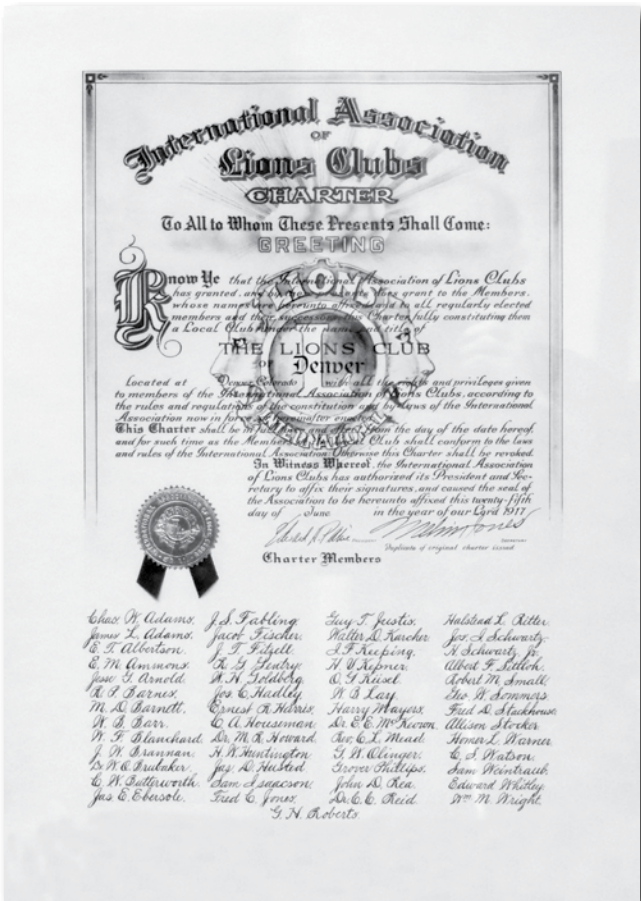
The Albany Hotel at 17th and Stout Streets was the Denver Lions office and the venue for many luncheons from the 1920s to the 1970s. The architect describes the hotel as a traditional American hotel with a system of palatial French flats. It was decorated in the elegant style of the 1880s, with Persian carpets on the floors and bronze peacock screens covering the fireplaces. This photo shows the hotel after its 1938 overhaul. The hotel was demolished in 1976 to make room for the Urban Center I. Photo courtesy of the Denver Public Library

Denver Club members played a significant role in the early years of Lions Clubs International. Dr. C. C. Reid, the first president of the Club, became the fourth president of the International Association (1920–21). Mr. Richard J. Osenbaugh, the eleventh president of the Denver Club, became an international director (1930–32) and the nineteenth international president (1935–36). Other Club members who served as international directors were Mr. John Fabling (1920–23) and Mr. Bert Kelly (1938–1940). The Club has also produced nine district governors, who serve as the leaders of a district, which is made up of thirty-five or more clubs and 1,250 or more members.

Denver has hosted four International Conventions, more than any other city except Chicago. At the 1920 Denver convention, more than a hundred clubs sent delegates; there were three clubs from Canada, making the association truly international for the first time. By the 1930 Denver convention, there were 2,200 clubs with eighty thousand members worldwide, and there were delegates from every state in the United States plus Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Hawaii, Greenland, India, and China. Denver hosted conventions in 1988 and 2003 with over thirty thousand Lions in attendance at each event. Today there are more than forty-six thousand Lions clubs with 1.4 million members worldwide.

THE SAGA OF THE DENVER CLUB CHARTER

As the Denver Lions were preparing for the twentieth anniversary, the Club charter could not be found. In August 1937, the Club secretary wrote a letter to International Secretary-General Melvin Jones, informing him of the charter dilemma. Mr. Jones responded that the International Association did not have complete records for those clubs that had been established prior to the creation of the International Association. He further indicated that the records he did have showed that a charter had been sent to Denver on November 9, 1920, with a Club organization date of June 26, 1917. The charter roster that the International Association had on file was dated January 1918; it showed 116 charter members of the Club and listed names, addresses, and business classification. In his letter, Mr. Melvin Jones also mentions that although the Denver Club predates the Chicago Central Club (the Chicago Business Circle became the Chicago Central Lions Club in August 1917), the Central Club was considered the first Lions club because it had put up the money to form the International Association.



Denver Club Charter, copy issued in 1942

Five more years passed while members of the Denver Club tried to find the original charter. In 1942, Melvin Jones offered to have a duplicate charter issued with the names of the fifty-three charter members as recollected by those charter members who were still alive. The International Association charged the Denver Club one dollar for the engraving of the duplicate charter. In 1942, about sixteen of the original charter members were still active in the Club. The duplicate charter issued at that time hangs in the Denver Club office. It was signed by Mr. Edward H. Paine, international president (1942–43), and has the words “duplicate of original charter issued” under his name. The following men were the fifty-three charter members of the Club.

Denver Lions Club Charter Members

Classification		Classification	
Chas. W. Adams	Heating	Walter D. Karcher	Safety Vaults
James L. Adams	St. Railway	I. F. Keeping	Oil (Wholesale)
E. T. Albertson	State Supt. Sunday Schools	H. V. Kepner	Schools (City)
E. M. Ammons	State Fair Association	O. G. Kissel	Coffee and Tea
Jesse G. Arnold	YMCA	W. B. Lay	Optician
R. P. Barnes	Schools (College)	Harry Mayers	Druggist (Retail)
M. B. Barnett	Clothing	E. E. McKeown	Oculist
W. D. Barr	Lumber Mfg.	Rev. C. L. Mead	Minister
W. F. Blanchard	Grocer (Retail)	G. W. Olinger	Undertaker
J. W. Brannan	Livestock Broker	Grover Phillips	Physician (Surgeon)
Dr. W. O. Brubaker	Dentist	John D. Rea	Crockery
C. W. Butterworth	Multigraphing	Dr. C. C. Reid	Physician (Osteopath)
Jas. E. Ebersole	Paint and Glass	Halstead L. Ritter	Attorney
J. S. Fabling	Insurance (Life)	G. H. Roberts	Office Building
Jacob Fischer	Contractor (Electrical)	Jos. I. Schwartz	Jeweler (Retail)
J. T. Fitzell	Laundry	H. Schwartz, Jr.	Carbon Remover
R. G. Gentry	Gas and Electricity	Albert F. Sittloh	Dry Goods
W. H. Goldberg	Accountant (Certified Public)	Robert M. Small	Plumbing (Retail)
Jos. C. Hadley	Automobile Supplies	Geo. W. Sommers	Filling Station
Ernest R. Harris	Clay (Denver Fire)	Fred D. Stackhouse	Auditor (City)
C. A. Houseman	Music and Talking Machines	Allison Stocker	Contractor (Building)
Dr. M. R. Howard	Exodontist	Homer L. Warner	Pumps
H. W. Huntington	Architect	C. S. Watson	
Jas. D. Husted	Cattle Dealer	Sam Weintraub	Tailor
Sam Isaacson	Cigars (Retail)	Edward Whitley	Abstracts
Fred C. Jones	Insurance (General)	Wm. M. Wright	Transfer Business
Guy T. Justis	Charities		

THE LIONS EMBLEM, SLOGAN, AND MOTTO

When Lions Clubs International was founded in 1917, Lions displayed both their pride and their sense of humor in creating the first Lions emblem. As for their pride, the lion in the emblem was based on a famous painting by the 19th century French artist Rosa Bonheur of a regal lion at rest in the wild. The painting’s title, “Old Monarch,” became the nickname for Lions’ earliest members and clubs. As for their humor, the first emblem was also a pun. The emblem depicted the lion holding a club in its mouth with the word “international” emblazoned on it. The play on the words “lion” and “club” and “international” was clever, but by 1919, Lions International asked its members to come up with a more polished and more professional logo.



Original Lions emblem adopted at the First International Convention in 1917

Flooded with submissions from Lions members who were also amateur artists, the International Board of Directors, at the 1919 International Convention in Chicago, decided to form a committee to acquire a proper, professional logo. The committee turned to Lion Maurice Blink, a Chicago commercial artist and founding member. Blink created a sketch of a circle with an “L” in the center and two lions’ heads in profile looking in opposite directions. The Lions International Board of Directors approved Blink’s design in April 1920. Melvin Jones explained its meaning: “The emblem represents a lion facing the past with pride and the future with confidence, looking in all directions to render service.”



Current Lions emblem adopted in 1920

Denver charter member and jeweler Joseph Schwartz designed the lapel pin based on the Blink logo. Millions of Lions club members around the world proudly wear that pin. That simple lapel pin has undoubtedly started more conversations about Lionism than any other thing.

The Lions slogan reflects the organization’s formative years in America during and after World War I. At the 1919 International Convention in Chicago, Mr. Halsted Ritter, a Denver charter member, rose and stated, “The name ‘Lions’ stands not only for fraternity, good fellowship, strength of character and purpose but, above all, Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation’s Safety.” Those last five words compose the acronym “Lions.” The words suited the patriotism that swept the country following WWI, and Lions adopted the acronym



Above: Fob and die made by Denver Lion Joseph Schwartz to produce the first Lion lapel pin
Inset: Lions lapel pin worn by millions of Lions around the world



as its slogan. It has since appeared widely on club stationary, billboards, and other promotional materials. Interestingly, a three-member committee on public affairs at the 1917 convention suggested that the word “Lions” could be an acronym for **L**oyalty **I**n **O**rder **N**ation **S**urvives. As the country was at war, such a slogan certainly made sense, but the one proposed in 1919 survives to this day.

At the First International Convention in 1917, Mr. E. N. Calvin proposed that the Lions motto be “Do It Now.” While that motto might have some support in today’s world, it did not catch the ear of delegates in 1917. A motion was made and passed to refer the creation of a motto to a committee of three reporting to the board of directors and submitting recommendations at the next International Convention. The record of what happened over the next thirty-plus years is murky.

In 1954, the International Board of Directors announced an International Motto Contest and invited suggestions from all 522,000 worldwide members. A movement that was growing across national borders, cultures, and languages, looking for words to describe their mission and work, drove the contest. According to the entry form, the motto had to be “enduring,” “international in character,” and “easily translatable.” There was also a strict contest rule to discourage wordiness. Lions could submit as many mottoes as they liked, but each entry could be no more than five words in length.

To get Lions thinking, the organizers gave out a few five-word examples: “Men of Action in Action,” “Working with Others for Others,” and “Worldwide Service to Humanity.” Fortunately, eleven of the six thousand Lion contestants had a better idea. They each submitted identical entries. But Lion D. A. Stevenson of Font Hill, Ontario, was declared the winner as his submission had the earliest postmark. That motto contained two simple words: “We Serve.” Indeed, it fulfilled the requirements.



Lions Club Magazine Volume 1, Number 1, 1918

The International Association began publishing the *Lions Club Magazine* in November 1918. Today, the *Lions Club Magazine* is published in twenty languages in both print and digital editions. The table of contents of Volume I, Number 1, provides some insight into the early days of Lions clubs:

Our Creed	Front Cover
Who Is A Lion	Inside Front Cover
A Forward Look – President L.H. Lewis	Page 5
How the Lions Can Help Win the War	
By W. A. Lybrand, Oklahoma City	Page 5
Second Annual Convention	Page 6
Echoes from the Convention	Page 10
Code of Ethics	Page 11
News from the Clubs	Page 12
New Clubs	Page 13
What Some of the Lions Look Like	Page 14–15
Where the Lions Meet and When	Page 17
Editorials	Page 18–19
Lions Do Things in Austin, Texas	Page 21
Los Angeles Cirgonian Club Affiliates	Page 23
District Governors	Page 25
Letters from “Over There”	Page 26
Newspaper Publicity and Club Publications	Page 27

Many clubs began to publish their own internal newsletters as a method of keeping members informed of events, meetings, speakers, introductions of new members, and other pertinent news. The Denver Den began publishing a newsletter as early as 1923. Early editions did not have a name or masthead, but were printed on a large folded page with the Club roster on the inside and the news on the front and back. In 1933, the newsletter was called *The Mile High Roar*. By 1938, a different member each week published it on his company stationary. This not only got the news out but it allowed for a bit of advertising at the same time. In 1943, the newsletter was called *DEN-VER-DEN*. By 1945, it had been renamed *The Roarer*. From 1962 to 1986, it was called *Denver Den Bulletin*. It was finally named the *Roarings* in 1987 and continues today under this name.

The newsletter—by whatever name—has been an important tool for keeping the membership informed of upcoming events and important milestones of Club activities. Many editions contain short biographies of new members. In accordance with the Constitution, prospective new members’ names, affiliations, and sponsors must be published in the newsletter. Even in the digital age, the *Roarings* (albeit sent via e-mail and posted on the Club website) is the vehicle for keeping the Club members informed.



Club Newsletter, 1923



Club Newsletter, 1933



Club Newsletter, 1938



Club Newsletter, 1945



Club Newsletter, 1946



Club Newsletter, 1957



Club Newsletter, 1982



Club Newsletter, 1989



Club Newsletter, 1999



Denver Lions Newsletter, 2016

THE LION CONCEPT SPREADS LIKE A WILDFIRE

The twenty-three clubs that participated in the First International Convention in 1917 represented approximately eight hundred Lions. By 1920, there were over 113 clubs with over six thousand members. By October 1947, the thirtieth anniversary of the Association, it had become the world's largest service club organization, with 324,690 members in nineteen nations. In the 1950s, Lions surpassed the half-million-members mark, and in February 1973, Lions welcomed its one-millionth member. At the time of this writing, there are more than 1.4 million members in forty-six thousand clubs in 205 countries and territories.

The table does not tell the whole story of membership. Events such as the influenza epidemic of 1919, which took more than half a million lives in the United States, put a damper on member recruitment. The armistice that ended World War I was signed, but famine, sickness, and misery remained. The Lions responded with fund-raisers to provide relief both at home and abroad. With the onset of the Great Depression in the 1930s, growing the membership in Lions clubs again became difficult. However, Lions persevered, and after World War II, membership began to rise steadily. This was a result both of returning servicemen wanting to serve their communities and an expansion of Lionism into many new countries. It had already been shown that the desire to serve through an organization like Lions was universal, and the Lions concepts were accepted across cultures and across national borders. Other major events that affected membership were the admission of women in 1987 and the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989. In the first year after the admission of women, more than ten thousand had joined, and by 2008, there were a quarter-million women Lions. After the Iron Curtain was lifted, Lions clubs were established in all of those countries of Eastern Europe where totalitarian governments had prohibited such organizations.

Evolution of Lions Membership

Year	Members	Clubs	Nations
1920	6,451	113	2
1930	79,414	2,202	4
1940	120,251	3,432	8
1950	402,841	8,055	28
1960	613,376	15,077	91
1970	906,579	24,391	126
1980	1,288,398	33,864	146
1990	1,368,991	39,415	166
2000	1,421,992	44,122	187
2010	1,338,803	46,168	200
2016	1,410,605	46,912	205



CONGRATULATIONS DENVER LIONS
On your 100TH Anniversary

WOMEN ARE WELCOMED

The delegates at the 1917 International Convention in Dallas voted to open membership to both men and women. However, at the 1918 International Convention in St. Louis, the Constitution was amended to eliminate women. The feminist movement was active in the United States at the time Lions clubs were being organized, but their focus was on such issues as women’s suffrage, rather than membership in service clubs. In fact, both men and women did not necessarily feel that membership should be open. Separate organizations for men and women were common and it was not considered discriminatory. It was not until the International Convention in 1987 that the Lions Constitution was amended to remove the word “male” from the requirements for membership.

However, women had been serving alongside men for some time. Denver Club records show that as early as 1928, there was a Denver Lions Club Women’s Auxiliary. The files indicate that the Women’s Auxiliary functioned very much as Lioness clubs would after 1975. They held regular meetings, raised funds, and supported community causes.

The International Association created the Lioness Program in 1975, which enabled women to establish clubs that were partnered with a Lions club. Remarkably, in 1957, the Leo Program was established. The Leo Program incorporates youth in both high schools (Alpha clubs) and Universities (Omega clubs) into clubs under the guidance of a Lions club. There are more than six thousand Leo clubs in 140 countries in 2016. Leo clubs included both men and women. It is not clear what women Leo graduates between 1957 and 1975 were supposed to do if they wanted to continue their affiliations with the objectives of Lionism.

A CHALLENGE ISSUED – THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN LIONS HISTORY

Community service is a rather broad and vague concept. To be sure, Lions clubs were engaged in service activities in their communities, but these activities varied wildly. The new International Association needed to find a cause that would unify the clubs and help solidify the Association. Other than helping the war effort by buying war bonds, there was no common activity. Helen Keller made a landmark speech in 1925 to the Lions International Convention at Cedar Point, Ohio, in which she challenged the Lions to become the “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness.” Her speech and the challenge marked the beginning of an era of service and support for sight-related problems that would come to define Lions forever. The following is her address to the Lions.

Dear Lions and Ladies:

I suppose you have heard the legend that represents opportunity as a capricious lady, who knocks at every door but once, and if the door isn’t opened quickly, she passes on, never to return. And that is as it should be. Lovely, desirable ladies won’t wait. You have to go out and grab ’em. I am your opportunity. I am knocking at your door. I want to be adopted. The legend doesn’t say what you are to do when several beautiful opportunities present themselves at the same door. I guess you have to choose the one you love best. I hope you will adopt me. I am the youngest here, and what I offer you is full of splendid opportunities for service.

The American Foundation for the Blind is only four years old. It grew out of the imperative needs of the blind, and was called into existence by the sightless themselves. It is national and international in scope and in importance. It represents the best and most enlightened thought on our subject that has been reached so far. Its object is to make the lives of the blind more worthwhile everywhere by increasing their economic value and giving them the joy of normal activity.

Try to imagine how you would feel if you were suddenly stricken blind today. Picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in the night; your work, your independence, gone. In that dark world wouldn’t you be glad if a friend took you by the hand and said, “Come with me and I will teach you how to do some of the things you used to do when you could see”? That is just the kind of friend the American Foundation is going to be to all the blind in this country if seeing people will give it the support it must have.

You have heard how through a little word dropped from the fingers of another, a ray of light from another soul touched the darkness of my mind and I found myself, found the world, found God. It is because my teacher learned about me and broke through the dark, silent imprisonment which held me that I am able to work for myself and for others. It is the caring we want more than money. The gift without the sympathy and interest of the giver is empty. If you care, if we can make the people of this great country care, the blind will indeed triumph over blindness.

The opportunity I bring to you, Lions, is this: To foster and sponsor the work of the American Foundation for the Blind. Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?

I thank you.



Born in Tuscumbia, Alabama, in 1880, Helen Keller developed a fever at eighteen months of age that left her blind and deaf. With the help of an exceptional teacher, Anne Mansfield Sullivan of the Perkins School for the Blind, Helen Keller learned sign language and braille. A few years later, she learned to speak. As an adult, she became a tireless advocate for people with disabilities. Photo courtesy of Lions Clubs International



A tribute to Helen Keller in front of the Cedar Point Pavilion, 2016

The Lions jumped to their feet and gave an enthusiastic and prolonged standing ovation. Helen Keller was then unanimously elected to be an Honorary Member of Lions International, and thus became the first lady Lion—more than sixty years before women were permitted to join. At the same time, her teacher, Anne Sullivan-Macy (who accompanied Helen), was voted the second Honorary Member of Lions International.

Later in the convention, delegates voted to make sight conservation and work with the blind a major service activity. It remains to this day the single service activity with which nearly every Lions member has been involved. This milestone event has had a lasting impact and profoundly changed a young International Association. Sight conservation has given universal purpose to Lions clubs around the globe, and it is the one objective that binds members everywhere.

LIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Collaboration between Lions and the United Nations dates back to 1945, when Lions leaders were asked to help develop the nongovernmental charter for the United Nations. Since then, Lions have collaborated on many successful humanitarian ventures, including the SightFirst program, which has helped restore sight, prevent blindness, and provide vision services to millions of people worldwide. Lions Day with the United Nations is an annual opportunity for Lions, UN leaders, and key partners to assess challenges facing the global community. At this event, Lions and UN officials discuss strategies to continue advocating for important humanitarian causes in support of the UN’s Development Goals.



Cedar Point Pavilion where Helen Keller delivered her speech in 1925

Helen Keller returned to the Lions International Convention in 1953. As she stood in front of a vast sea of Lions in Chicago, she said,

“Dear Lions, my Knights of the Blind, as I have always called you. What a wonderful moment this is as I stand before you and think of the light you are spreading among the people of the world. As I travel from state to state and country to country, I catch you Lions hunting vigorously for means to further this noble purpose. Recently I traveled in Central and South America trying to get data concerning the blind. I was privileged to meet Lions of Lima and Panama. I had known that the Lions of the United States had chosen work for the blind as one of their basic activities, but I had not realized that Lions had leaped over walls of languages to unite in their service to the captives of the dark.”

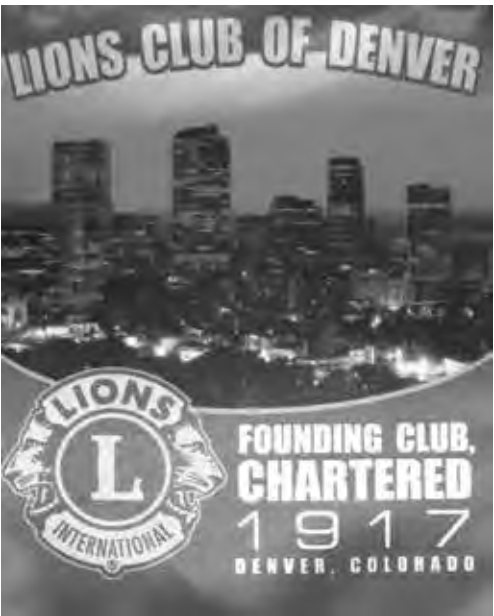
One of the highlights of Lions Day at the United Nations is the announcement of the winners of the Lions Peace Poster and Essay Contests. Both grand prize winners receive \$5,000 and are honored at the next Lions Clubs International Convention.

Lions tend to be avid travelers, and one of the great things about being a Lion is that there are other Lions everywhere. Lions clubs always welcome fellow Lions to their meetings. A Lions tradition is to exchange friendship banners when visiting another club, whether in the United States or abroad.

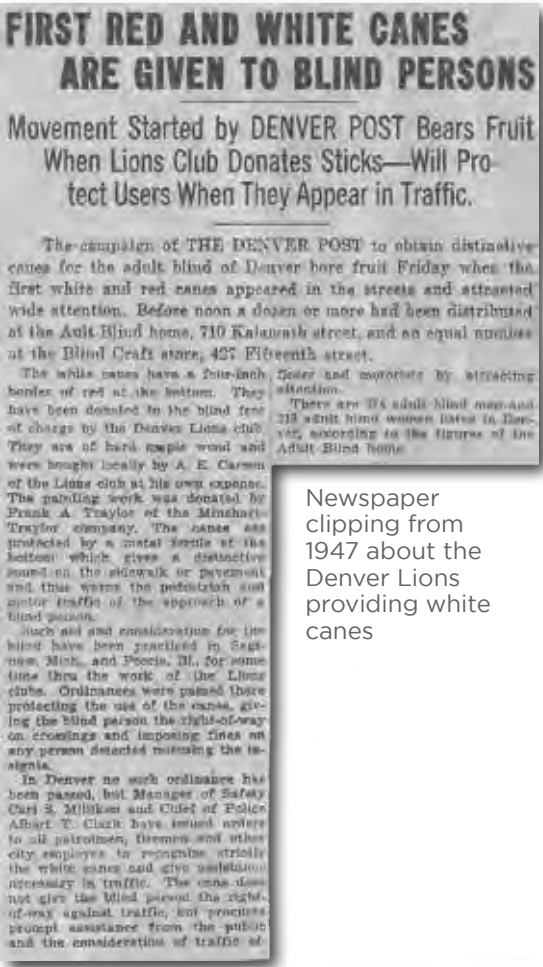
THE WHITE CANE

In 1930, Lion George A. Bonham of Peoria, Illinois, happened to observe a blind man crossing a busy street using an ordinary black cane to guide himself. Drivers were not able to distinguish this pedestrian from any other man using a cane as a walking aid; there was no way for people to know this man was blind. Lion Bonham came up with the idea of painting the cane white with a red band to alert people that the user was blind. His Peoria Lions Club embraced the idea and soon began producing white canes. The Peoria City Council passed an ordinance declaring that the right-of-way at street crossings is given to blind persons carrying white canes. By 1956, every state in the United States had adopted laws similar to that of the Peoria City Council. The president of the United States annually recognizes White Cane Day by the Blind Americans Equality Day Proclamation on October 15 to acknowledge the abilities of people who are blind and to promote equal opportunities as for any other American.

The mission of White Cane Day is to educate the world about blindness and how the blind and visually impaired can live and work independently while giving back to their communities, to celebrate the abilities and successes achieved by blind people in a sighted world, and to honor the many contributions being made by the blind and visually impaired. Many Lions clubs use White Cane Day as a day to collect funds, hand out small, white cane pins, and generally bring awareness to issues of blindness in their communities.



Denver Club banner



Newspaper clipping from 1947 about the Denver Lions providing white canes

TAIL TWISTING

It has always been a Lions tradition to have fun among the members. Lions clubs have one or more members who act as tail twister. The primary duty of the tail twister is to instill enthusiasm and good fellowship at club meetings. The tail twister is empowered to collect fines so that any humorous situation can become cause for attention. Members may be fined for such infractions as not wearing their lapel pin, having their name appear in the newspaper, failure to sing, arriving late, or allowing their cell phone to ring. Another favorite is to play Lions trivia. Anyone who does not get the correct answer pays a fine. More elaborate stunts are often developed for the enjoyment of the members as shown below.

The Denver Lions Club grasped the concept of tail twisting from the very beginning. At a meeting on October 13, 1917, there was apparent confusion over who was to be the principal speaker for the evening. The Denver commissioner of parks, Mr. W. F. R. Mills, was the invited guest. When Club President Dr. C. C. Reid introduced Mr. Mills as the speaker, Mr. Halsted Ritter (the very same Lion who a few years later coined the Lions Slogan) jumped to his feet, declaring that he had come to the dinner with the understanding that he and only he would address the members. He stated that Dr. Reid had asked him to bring a guest, the very same man who then stabbed him in the back. Mr. Mills also jumped into the fray and a shouting match ensued. Members of the Club were dumbstruck by this behavior. After several minutes of trading insults, the members were interrupted by the chant of newsboys with copies of *The Denver Times* that already had an account of the controversy between Mills and Ritter. The headline read “Lion Club Banqueters Have Near Riot.”

Of course, the entire episode had been prearranged by Mr. E. A. Hicks acting as tail twister. While the event provided much laughter and entertainment for the members of the Club, it also demonstrated a lesson. Jealousy and lack of good will are more often than not based on honest misunderstanding.



The *Extra*, produced by the Denver Lions tail twister for a 1917 prank

Another prank by the Denver Club took place at the Eighth International Convention in Omaha in 1924. The Denver Den prevailed upon the owners of the Moffat and Burlington Railroads to ship a railcar full of snow to the convention. The 2,500 delegates from across the United States and Canada engaged in snowball fights, a first in Omaha in the month of July. This caused such a stir that the local media took movies of the event, a copy of which still exists. The Denver Den delegates bought the rights to the film for \$200. Upon their return to Denver, they arranged to have the film shown in theaters as an additional feature for an entire week. Tickets were sold for fifty cents, with the proceeds going toward Club service projects. After the initial week, the film was offered to other Colorado Lions clubs, with the revenue generated going to the convention fund for subsequent years. This stunt ended up providing a great deal of fun, good public relations for Lions, and a fund-raising opportunity for the both the Denver Den and Colorado Lions.

Then there is the case of Father Igor Kagnovich of Kodiak, Alaska. He was invited to speak to the Denver Club in July 1948. His qualifications were published in the Club bulletin as follows:

Father Kagnovich is a Russian Orthodox Priest, born and educated in Tomak Siberia, which is winter bound ten months of the year. The majority of the inhabitants are of the Mongolian race similar to the Eskimo. Father Igor did missionary work among these people, later coming to Kodiak Island where the American way of life impressed him so much he arranged to remain for a limited time. Club President Ludwig Rittig met him quite by accident while visiting Kodiak and casually invited him to Denver. President Ludwig was quite surprised to receive a telegram from Father Igor advising that he was in Seattle and would be in Denver this week. He naturally invited him to address the club at its regular meeting.

The day of the meeting, President Ludwig went through the normal routine of the opening, the song, the invocation, the lunch, and several announcements and reports while the speaker’s chair remained empty. Concern was growing over whether Father Igor’s flight had been delayed or if he was held up in traffic. Finally, Father Igor arrived wearing his clerical robes, a tall black fez emblazoned with the orthodox cross, and a bejeweled neck chain holding another cross.

President Ludwig introduced Father Igor in glowing terms. Father Igor took the microphone and began his speech. He was clearly understandable, although he spoke English with the predictable accent. However, his speech was a scathing diatribe on the American way of life and a doomsday prediction for the future failure of the United States. Father Igor continued to explain the virtues of the communist system and stated that the Soviet Union would one day dominate the world. He then began a criticism



Father Igor Kagnovich and Lions President Lud Rittig on July 13, 1948



Father Igor turns out to be Lion Ed O'Brien, Sr.

of service clubs—especially Lions clubs—indicating that these were nothing but tools of capitalistic greed and undercover operators of a worldwide conspiracy to deny people access to communism.

By this time, members were apoplectic—some had already left the room, and others were about to leave. President Ludwig, seemingly embarrassed beyond belief, rose and took the microphone. At this point, Lion Ludwig and Father Igor were about to burst with laughter. The good Father then removed his beard and fez and revealed himself to be Lion Ed O'Brien, Sr.

Other activities of the Club that are primarily for fun include the annual golf outing that has been going on since the 1920s. The annual picnic is an opportunity for spouses, children,



Denver Lions rowing in the annual Dragon Boat Festival, 2016

and grandchildren to enjoy a Lions event. More recently, the Club has entered a team of rowers in the annual Dragon Boat Festival. The Club also conducts KidSight screenings at this event.

In 1950, the International Association published the *Lions Stunt Book and Toastmaster's Guide*. This book provides any tail twister with hundreds of very practical ideas for stunts that will enliven any meeting. Luncheon Stunts, Ladies' Night Stunts, Attendance Stunts, Initiation Stunts, and many others categorize the stunts described in the book.



Dragon Boat Rowing Team, 2014



Newspaper clipping of the Denver Lions golf outing in 1926



Peace Poster, 2015

CHAPTER 2

FORMATION OF LIONS FOUNDATIONS

In the early days of the Denver Club, funds were raised from many sources. Members were always quite willing to contribute funds to a worthy cause being supported by the Club. The Denver Den had a Glee Club that performed at many functions in the city, receiving honorariums that went into the Club treasury. The Glee Club also produced a number of performances during the year. For example, in 1941 the Club staged the *Pirates of Penzance*. For many years, the Club held an annual minstrel show. Movie theaters held special showings or screened regular movies, with a portion of the ticket price going to the Lions Club. The Club also raised money by selling apples on the 16th Street Mall. The apples, donated by the Colorado Apple Growers, were “given away,” but recipients were asked for a donation. Raffles were also held, with most tickets sold within the Club.

There was a strong tendency for members to just open their checkbooks for any worthy cause. Many preferred this to working on a fund-raising activity. In 1941, the chair of the Milk Fund Committee conducted a survey among fifty of the two hundred members of the club, asking them if they would prefer to make a \$5 contribution (more than \$65 in 2016 dollars) or participate in fund-raising activities. All but one of the fifty said they would rather write a check. The chair of the committee informed the president of the Club that “members prefer to contribute to the Milk Fund by direct donation thus avoiding the evils attendant with selling tickets, performance production, raffles, etc.” It is not clear what the “evils” referred to were, but the preference of the membership was clear.

Because of the benefits derived from membership in a club, contributions to Lions clubs are generally not tax deductible. Realizing that the Denver Club needed to find a way to better share responsibilities, Lions Fran Bain (President, 1951–52) and Kenneth King (President, 1952–53) launched a study that led to the creation of the Denver Lions Foundation in 1952. Placing the charitable activities of the Club under the Foundation Board allowed the Club Board to focus on management of the Club. This has proven to be an excellent model.



Denver Lions Glee Club Program, 1936



Ticket for Denver Lions Glee Club Program, 1937



In honor of my father, Lion E. Fletcher Brown, Sr. of
the Lions Club of Germantown, Pennsylvania.
—Fletcher Brown



FORMATION OF LIONS FOUNDATIONS 33



Cast of the Denver Lions production of the *Pirates of Penzance*, 1941



Program for the 10th Annual Denver Lions Minstrel Show in 1930



Lions President Ken King and Denver Lions Foundation President Art Thomas showing the results of the first Denver Lions Foundation Fund Raising Campaign, 1952.

The Foundation was incorporated as a nonprofit in 1952 and was granted 501(c)(3) status by the Internal Revenue Service in January 1954. Lion Art Thomas became the first president of the board of trustees, from 1952 to 1956. Thus, the Foundation became the charitable arm of the Denver Lions. The Club's board of directors transferred \$2,700 from the Club treasury to make the initial deposit of Foundation Funds. They also authorized a campaign to obtain subscriptions from Club members to adequately finance the new Foundation. The first fund-raising campaign was staged in December 1952 and resulted in \$7,900 (\$58,500 in 2016 dollars) being contributed to the Foundation.

In 1988, the Foundation established a perpetual charitable trust—the Denver Lions Foundation Endowment. The Foundation Endowment is professionally managed, and it provides for the continuation of the community services programs of the Club. Income from the Endowment—combined with annual giving—supports the many activities each year. The creation of the Endowment benefited greatly from contributions by Club members Lee Schlessman and Kenneth King and their respective foundations.

Every member of the Denver Lions Club is a member of the Denver Lions Foundation. A nine-member board of trustees elected by the members governs the Foundation. The board of trustees of the Foundation created three committees to manage the grant program: Sight Conservation, Social Services, and Youth Services. Eventually, the Hearing Conservation Committee was added. These Four Pillars of the Denver Lions remain in place today.



Lions Edgar Stansfield and David Brofman present a machine for treating amblyopia to an unnamed representative of the Society for the Prevention of Blindness, 1956.

The following list of grants made in 1955–56 provides an idea of the breadth of service activities supported each and every year by the Denver Lions Club through the Foundation.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Denver Society for Crippled Children | Garden Place Elementary School |
| Blood Bank | Young American League |
| 4H clubs | Laradon Hall for the Deaf |
| White canes | Goodwill Industries |
| Education interest-free loans | Treatment for infant with eye cancer |
| Denver YMCA | Working capital for businesses owned by the blind |
| Braces for polio victim | Camperships for disabled children |
| Eye exams and eyeglasses | |



PILLAR 1 – SIGHT CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

This program provides grants for a variety of sight-related activities. Since the challenge issued by Helen Keller in 1925, sight has been at the forefront of the Denver Club program. In dollar terms, Sight Conservation was the single largest activity of the Club in 2016. This program involves a number of subprograms. From the early days, the Club has provided direct support to individuals, whereby low-income members of the community can receive eye exams and eyeglasses. Recently, the Foundation established the Eye Surgery Fund to support the needs of low-income individuals for cataract and cornea surgeries. The Fund supplements any Medicare, Medicaid, or insurance allowances. The Sight Conservation Committee also supports the Denver Den KidSight Program, the KidSight Colorado Program, the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank, Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute, and Club-initiated international eye missions (these signature projects are outlined in detail in Chapter 3). For the 2015–16 year, the Foundation provided more than \$70,000 in grants for the Sight Conservation effort.



Lion Fletcher Brown screening an infant holding a stuffed lion, 2016.



Lion Eric Steen performing a KidSight screening, 2015.

PILLAR 2 – HEARING CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

This program is designed to provide hearing aids to low-income individuals. To be eligible, the person must have a household income at or below 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines. The individual must have an audiologist who will agree to the guidelines set by the two programs that the committee works through. These programs limit the fees the practitioner may charge for fitting the hearing aids and for follow-up care; they also prohibit the practitioner from adding any mark-up costs for the hearing aids. The audiologist must also determine that a “behind the ear” aid will work for the individual. The hearing aid provider does not offer an aid that will fit in the ear canal.

The Hearing Conservation effort is able to provide hearing aids to low-income individuals by working through the Starkey Foundation’s Hear Now Program. During the 2015–16 Lion Year, the committee approved requests from twenty-four individuals for two hearing aids each, and seventeen more requests were in process at the time of this writing. All requests in 2015–16 were from patients at the Hearing Center at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and the Marion Downs Center. The Foundation will provide grants totaling \$10,250 to cover the cost of both those approved and those in process during the 2015–16 year.

PILLAR 3 – YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

The two signature programs of the Youth Services pillar of the Club are the Rude Park Day Care Center and Savio House (these programs are outlined in detail in Chapter 3). The committee provided a grant of \$8,000 in 2015–16 to the Colorado Lions Camp to be used for both camperships as well as infrastructure. In other years, the Foundation has supported the Lions International Youth Exchange program, the Lions Peace Poster Contest, and the Lions Public Speaking program. Lion Erika Taylor of the Denver Den hosted a Lions exchange student from Mongolia in the summer of 2016. During the 2015–16 year, the Foundation provided over \$40,000 in grants for Youth Services.



Lion Erica Talyor (right) and Undraa Molomjamts, an international exchange student from Mongolia, 2016.



A group of International Youth Exchange program students hosted by Colorado Lions at a welcome picnic, 2016.

PILLAR 4 – SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Social Services Committee receives grant requests from various social service agencies as well as individuals via e-mail and telephone. The committee evaluates the requests based on such criteria as location and need of the client, amount being requested, and how the grant will be used. During the 2015–16 Lion Year, the Social Services Committee responded to requests from several individuals for grants totaling \$2,600.

The archives of the Denver Lions Club do not contain information on the number of people in Denver who have benefited from the one hundred years of community service activities. The records on funding service activities also are not complete. However, it is estimated that the Denver Lions Foundation has made grants totaling \$2.5 million since it was created in 1952.

COLORADO LIONS FOUNDATION

The Lions clubs of Colorado established the Colorado Lions Foundation (CLF) as a nonprofit corporation on November 27, 1957. The CLF Board of Trustees consists of one elected representative from each of the four districts that make up Colorado Lions Multiple District 6, and one trustee is elected from among the Lions of Colorado as “Member at Large.”

The nonprofit 501(c)(3) status of the CLF has provided the mechanism for allowing individuals to make tax-deductible contributions of assets for use by the Foundation. Colorado Lions clubs that do not have foundations may set up accounts in the Colorado Lions Foundation as a means for managing their charitable funds and keeping them separate from their administrative funds. This also allows clubs to raise tax-deductible funds from members and from the community. The CLF receives contributions from Lions through special promotions such as the Humanitarian Awards, Ann Sullivan Awards, Pin Sales, and from estate plan designations. The Foundation also manages other assets, including the Colorado Lions Camp real estate and various accounts with specific designations and objectives. A portion of these assets has been designated for the long-term endowment of the Foundation.



Above: Melvin Jones Fellowship lapel pin
Right: Denver Den Melvin Jones Fellows (left to right) Dwight Steen, Terry Lutts, Russell Lynn, William Adams, Emerson Bails, and Fletcher Brown, August 2016



LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (LCIF)

The International Association established a foundation in 1968, sixteen years after the formation of the Denver Lions Foundation. The objective was to take the mission of Lions Clubs International to new heights by tackling global problems, as well as assisting Lions with large-scale, local, humanitarian projects. LCIF’s history is filled with high-impact projects, meaningful partnerships, and the kindness and efforts of Lions. In 1972, LCIF awarded its first grant of \$5,000 for flood relief in South Dakota. Other milestones in the history of LCIF include:

- The Melvin Jones Fellowship program was established in 1973 as a way to recognize donors of \$1,000, and the Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship program was established in 1986 to give Lions a way to extend their commitment. The Melvin Jones Fellowship program generates 75 percent of the funds provided to LCIF. By 2016, Melvin Jones Fellows numbered 386,804 and 75,067 Lions had become Progressive Fellows.
- In 1985, LCIF awarded its first major disaster assistance grant of \$50,000 for Mexican earthquake relief.
- The SightFirst program was launched in 1989, eventually preventing serious vision loss to thirty million people.
- In 1999, LCIF partnered with the Carter Center to combat river blindness and trachoma in Latin America and Africa.
- Lions and LCIF raised \$15 million for South Asian tsunami relief in 2004.
- Campaign SightFirst II was launched at the International Convention in 2005, and by 2008 it had surpassed the \$200 million goal.
- In 2011, LCIF celebrated the administration of the 148-millionth dose of Mectizan to treat river blindness; in 2015, LCIF administered the 500-millionth dose of azithromycin to fight trachoma.

Millions of people around the world have benefited from more than twelve thousand LCIF grants, which have totaled more than one billion dollars. That number continues to grow in part from gifts from foundations, corporations, governments, and non-Lions. However, the vast majority of LCIF funding comes from the generous donations of Lions clubs and individual Lions members.

The primary objective of any Lions club is service to the community, but membership also forges relationships and business connections. Tracy Heatwole, who owned the Insurance Agency of Colorado Incorporated, joined the Denver Lions in 1925. James Kellett, who joined the Club in 1956, became the owner of that agency. Today, Club members William Adams and his son David own the agency (renamed ISU Insurance Services of Colorado, Inc.). This agency has been doing business in Colorado for 134 years, owned by four “generations” of Denver Lions.

There are undoubtedly many more examples of business connections among members that are not documented in the archives. There have also been romances among members that evolved into marriages. Due to incomplete information in the Club archives, these are not being listed.



Lion Ned Nagle screening patients in Ecuador with a Retinomax auto-refractor, 2013

CHAPTER 3

SIGNATURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

DENVER YMCA BOYS CABIN

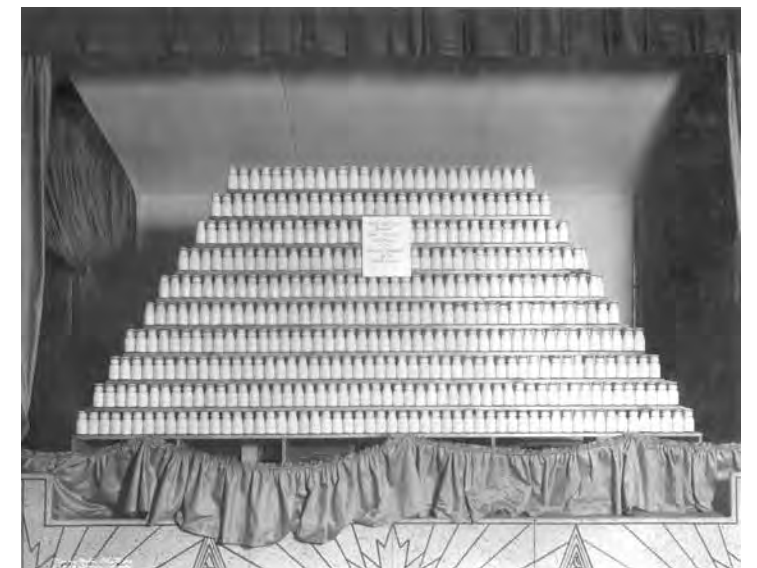
The several years following the Denver Lions Club's formation in 1917 were dedicated to organization and membership development. In 1920, the Club launched its first major community service project. The Denver Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) had a need for a facility on their property near Morrison that would accommodate overnight trips. The Denver Club raised the money and erected the building. It was equipped to accommodate thirty-two boys with sleeping bunks, a living room with a large fireplace, a dining room, and a kitchen. It became known as the Lions Club Cubs' Den. Records show that in one year, seventy-six groups totaling 3,100 boys used the facility. The Club archives do not contain information about the cost of building the Lions Club Cubs' Den.



Dedication of the cabin donated to the Denver YMCA in 1921

THE MILK FUND

While the Great Depression officially began with the collapse of the stock market and the run on the banks in 1929, in many areas of the country the recession began as early as 1920. That year, unemployment in the United States rose from 4 percent to 12 percent and the GNP fell by 17 percent. President Harding introduced his "fiscal stimulus" by cutting the federal budget in half, slashing tax rates at all income levels, and reducing the national debt by one-third. These austerity measures made it difficult for many people to meet basic needs. School authorities in Denver found that many children were coming to school without breakfast and without sufficient food for other meals. Denver Lions Club members believed that relieving hunger and undernourishment were worthwhile causes, so they created the Milk Fund in 1921.



Pyramid of milk representing one week's donation by the Denver Lions, November 26, 1929



Congratulations, Denver Den, on your one-hundredth anniversary, from ISU Insurance Services of Colorado, Inc., a premier, all-lines, independent insurance agency, and another "Colorado Centenarian," established in 1882. —Lions Bill and Dave Adams





Children from Asbury School performing the Milk Fund Skit, written by Denver Club member R. Mason Purdy, October 17, 1939.



Lion Edward Jones, tail twister, collecting Milk Fund donations at a Club meeting, January 2, 1945.



Lions Rollie Bradford, Joe Pulliam (tail twister), and Graham Miller use the Milk Can for fines, reminding members that money goes to the Milk Fund.

Initially, members contributed to the Milk Fund at intervals during the year. At one time, every member contributed ten cents at each luncheon. The Denver Lions Glee Club turned over the proceeds from their performances, and tail twister fines were also a source of revenue for the Milk Fund. By the early 1940s, the Club was raising \$2,000 (about \$27,000 in 2016 dollars) annually for the Milk Fund. At some point, the milk was supplemented with crackers. The Milk Fund continued until 1961, when US government surplus foods were made available to schools.

In 1939, Denver Lion R. Mason Purdy wrote a skit involving a mother, her four children, and a school nurse. Each cast member's part in the skit demonstrated the importance of the milk provided by the Lions to a poor family. The script of the skit was sent off to the managing editor of the *Lions Club Magazine*; it drew much praise and was published in the magazine in early 1940.

This early activity of the Denver Lions helped hundreds of thousands of Denver school children in their struggle with nutrition. Throughout the forty years of the program, many thousands of dollars were contributed. The Lions Milk Fund was supplemented by funds from other organizations, such as the Community Chest (now United Way). In the 1940s, a half pint of milk cost two and a half cents, so those ten-cent contributions by hundreds of Denver Den members at the weekly lunch meetings had a significant impact.

A PLAY BUILDS A PLAYGROUND

In 1943, the Denver Lions Club sponsored the *Black Hills Passion Play* as a fund-raising event. An acting company from Spearfish, South Dakota, performed at the Municipal Auditorium for a week. Funds from the play were divided between a grant of \$2,000 (over \$27,000 in 2016 dollars) to the Committee on Aid to the Blind and a gift of \$5,700 (over \$64,000 in 2016 dollars) to the Epworth Community Center for the building of a playground. The Epworth Community Center worked with children much as the Boys and Girls Clubs do today. The playground provided a means to keep the children suitably occupied. The playground covered four city blocks and included roller-skating, ice-skating, a wading pool, dances, tennis, volleyball, handball, and other games. Over the years, the Denver Lions Club also helped build playgrounds for the Anchor Center for the Blind and for the Barnum neighborhood adjacent to Savio House.



Newspaper clipping about the Passion Play, 1943

During the 1950s, the State of Colorado sponsored the Colorado Industries for the Blind. It focused on four areas: manufacturing, vending stands, rehabilitation, and home industries. Employees on the manufacturing side produced brooms, brushes, mops, and rubber mats in a special workshop. "Home industries," similar to manufacturing, gave blind Coloradans the opportunity to make household items like aprons and ironing board covers.



Dedication of the Epworth Center Playground, 1944

Other workers had vending stands where they sold the products manufactured both in the workshop and by the home industries. Grants by the Denver Lions to the Committee on Aid to the Blind provided funds to the Colorado Industries for the Blind that set up vending stands run by blind individuals. Vending stand operators earned between \$100 and \$440 per month.

During the depression, one of every four workers in Denver was unemployed. In these difficult times, Denver citizens—including members of the Denver Lions Club—were not satisfied with the way Denver's less fortunate citizens were being remembered at Christmas. To ensure that every child in Denver received a gift at that special time of the year, concerned citizens created the Denver Santa Claus Shop Inc. Members of the Lions Club served on the board of the Denver Santa Claus Shop. Donations were received from many sources and volunteers wrapped the gifts. Certificates that could be used like money in the Santa Claus Shop were given out to the needy. The Lions Club collected Christmas candy that was put into sacks by volunteer Girl Scouts and 4H Club members. To provide an idea of the impact, in 1950 the Denver Lions provided 2,100 pounds of candy, and the Santa Claus Shop provided gifts for 9,100 children. The Lions made it possible for each child to receive a sack of candy with their Christmas gift.

EISENHOWER CHAPEL

In the early 1950s, members of the Denver Lions Club began looking for a place in downtown Denver for a chapel. They wanted to provide a place where one could get away from the noise and hubbub of the city and meditate. The construction of the downtown Eisenhower Chapel was the first major project undertaken by the new Denver Lions Foundation. The Foundation solicited contributions from both the Club members and the general public. Generous gifts of money, materials, and workmanship were received. The Foundation spent over \$14,000 (\$105,000 in 2016 dollars) and additional amounts over the years on upkeep and supplies. The Chapel was named after then President Dwight D. Eisenhower as a tribute to a man who was not afraid to voice his conviction that “prayer gives you the courage to make decisions you must make in a crisis and then the confidence to leave the results to a higher being.” Owners of the Denver Club Building at 518 Seventeenth Street generously donated space on the second floor for the Chapel. A recent change in ownership of the Denver Club Building may result in the dismantling of the Chapel. *The Denver Post* (July 27, 2016) reports that the new owners plan to donate the furnishings of the Chapel to the Eisenhower Presidential Library.



Newspaper clipping about the Eisenhower Chapel, 1954



Looking into the Eisenhower Chapel, 1954



Club member Carl Steele presenting General Eisenhower the columbine painting for his plane, 1951.



Plaque at the Stapleton Airport Chapel

It is also noteworthy to mention that while General Eisenhower was Supreme Allied Commander–Europe, his airplane was named *Columbine*. Since the columbine is the state flower of Colorado (and because of Eisenhower’s fondness for the state), the Denver Lions had a painting of the flower made that they hoped would hang in the plane. Denver Lion Carl Steele, while in Paris for a convention, was able to present the painting to General Eisenhower in October 1951.

The dedication of the Eisenhower Chapel took place on Palm Sunday, April 3, 1955. The Chapel was named for Eisenhower because he had a very affectionate place in his heart for Colorado. He spent many a vacation skiing, fishing, and golfing in Colorado. In 1954, the State of Colorado issued Fishing License Number One to him and he renewed it for many years thereafter. In 1955, President Eisenhower suffered a serious heart attack while vacationing in Colorado. He spent six weeks recuperating in Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Aurora.

The Denver Lions Club—in collaboration with the Stapleton Lions Club—also built a chapel at the Stapleton Airport. This chapel was dedicated in March of 1967. The two clubs raised \$19,000 (more than \$110,000 in 2016) to furnish the chapel, and the Stapleton International Airport Authority provided space free of charge.

RUDE PARK DAY CARE CENTER

In 1921, the Denver County Council of Parent Teachers Association purchased a large plot of land that they then donated to the city and county of Denver to be used as a park and community center. The deed specifies that the park be known as Rude Park. It is assumed that Rude Park is named for Isador Rude, who was a local tailor and generous supporter of the community.

A community center was soon established, and the first nursery school opened under the auspices of the Junior League in 1932. This first nursery was available free to children of mothers who were taking classes and engaged in activities at the community center. The need for a full-time nursery for the children of working mothers soon became apparent. The Denver County Council of Parent Teachers Association sought funds to establish such a nursery. In 1945, the City of Denver took over and



September 1958 ground-breaking ceremony for Rude Park Day Care Center. Denver Lion and Congressman Byron Rogers holding the shovel, with (from left to right) Lion President Bill Day; Lion Ed Jones, contractor for building and president of the Denver Lions Foundation; Edward L. Kent, president of Rude Park Community Nursery; and Lions Elmer Metcalfe, Ed Dunklee, and Henry Neuschafer.



Lions Ed Jones (left), Denver Lions Foundation president, 1958–59, and general contractor on Rude Park Day Care Center; Bob Wade, Denver Lions Foundation president, 1961–62; and Graham R. Miller, Denver Lions Club president, 1961–62, burning the mortgage note at a Club meeting in the Albany Hotel, December 1961.

operated the nursery six days a week at a low cost to the parents; however, management issues resulted in closure. The nursery was taken over by the Community Chest (now known as United Way) in 1950. At that time, the nursery was housed in a sixty-year-old home that is believed to have belonged to Isador Rude. The house was inadequate, and it was condemned by the city; it was then repaired until repairs were no longer feasible. In 1958, when the nursery was ordered to vacate the property, it was serving thirty-five children. A longtime Denver Lion, Sid Buka, was serving on the board of Rude Park and brought the situation to the attention of the Denver Lions Foundation.

The Denver Lions accepted the challenge of building an adequate facility to house a day care center. The Desk and Derrick Club (a women’s club for secretaries of attorneys and oil companies) purchased the six lots needed for the project and donated them to the Denver Lions Foundation. Ground was broken on the 4,000-square-foot center at 1275 Decatur Street in September 1958. The new building was estimated to cost \$60,000. Some twenty members of the Club who were associated with the building trades donated over \$13,000 of the cost in materials and services. Other Club members contributed \$10,000 in cash to get the project started. Twenty-five members of the Denver Lions Club personally guaranteed a \$25,000 loan, with the Colorado Federal Savings and Loan Association to complete the financing.

The building was dedicated in April 1959 and has been serving as a day care center ever since. The loan was paid off in 1961, and the note was burned at a meeting of the Club in December of that year. The Rude Park board (all members of the Denver Lions Club) ran the day care center until 1972, when it became part of the Mile High Child Care Association (renamed Mile High Montessori Early Learning Center in 1998). The Rude Park board remains responsible for the facility. The Rude Park board holds the facility under a ninety-nine-year lease from the Denver Lions Foundation for one dollar per year. The Rude Park board, however, had no revenue stream from which to pay for maintenance and improvements on the property because the Mile High Child Care Association did not pay rent. After much thought and discussion, it was agreed that the Mile High Child Care Association would pay rent, all of which is reinvested in the physical plant.



Rude Park Day Care Center building, 1960

The remodeled facility was rededicated in November 1989. At one time, the facility provided day care for sixty children, but due to changing standards, the facility can accommodate forty children today. The Rude Park Day Care Center offers comprehensive day care for children ages six weeks to five years. The children at the Center are primarily from single-parent homes that are at or below the poverty line. The parent must be actively working or enrolled in school to learn a vocation.

Rude Park has become an outstanding early learning center in Denver. On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Rude Park Day Care Center, Mayor Michael Hancock recognized the project with a proclamation. The Denver Lions Club continues to support the Rude Park Day Care Center by providing volunteer time for workdays, for picnics with the children and their families, for reading to the children, and for participating on the board of directors. The Denver Lions Foundation provided grant funds to Rude Park in the 2015–16 year totaling \$17,000.

By 1985, the now twenty-five-year-old building was in need of renovation. The Rude Park board and the Denver Lions began looking for funds. By 1989, \$225,000 had been secured as follows:

The Community Development Agency (two grants)	\$140,000
Rude Park Board (from accumulated rents)	\$35,000
The Schlessman Family Foundation	\$30,000
The Denver Lions Foundation	\$15,000
Mile High Child Care, Denver Lionesses, Denver Parent Teachers Association, and Albert Pike Lodge	\$5,000

SAVIO HOUSE

For years, the Denver Den demonstrated strong compassion for the youth of the community. In 1974, the Denver Club again stepped up to accept a challenge. The building that is now Savio House at 325 King Street on the west side of Denver was built in 1910 and was the most imposing building in the Barnum area of Denver. (The area received its name because the Barnum circus maintained a winter encampment in this area.) The house sits on a knoll overlooking the Platte River. The Sisters of Our Lady of Lourdes acquired it for back taxes in 1913. The Sisters asked the original architect to design an inspirational chapel and dormitory to be used as a tuberculosis sanitarium.

At that time, tuberculosis—also known as consumption and the white plague—was a major health concern in the United States, especially in the major cities of the East. Many people were moving to Denver for the drier climate that was thought to be beneficial. Because the disease was thought to be contagious, sanitarium confinement was the treatment norm. It was in 1908 that the National Tuberculosis Association (later changed to the American Lung Association) launched the Christmas Seals program to raise money and awareness of the disease.

As the need for tuberculosis sanitariums declined, so did the property. In 1966, four prominent citizens of Denver purchased the property with a view to turning it into a home for young boys in trouble. They formed a nonprofit corporation to operate a “children’s institution” to provide residential care for boys whose needs could not be adequately met in a family environment. This “institution” eventually became Savio House—named after Dominic Savio, the patron saint of choir boys. At that time, there was no government agency or other private resource meeting this need in the community.

One of those citizens who had acquired the property in 1966 was familiar with the Lions Club of Denver. In 1974, the Denver Lions became concerned about the plight of boys in the community and began to investigate the situation. In that same year, Club members voted to make Savio House a project of the Denver Lions based on a study led by Lion Jerry Selinfreund.

The Denver Club expanded the goals of Savio House to provide for a community-based program with the intent to return residents to the mainstream of life rather than perpetual institutionalization. It offered these young men a chance to draw upon the multitude of community services and the inspiration of the members of the Denver Lions Club.



Past International President Bill Biggs (center) with Denver Den President Paul Barbour and Mrs. Briggs at Savio House, 1997.

Over the years, the Denver Lions Foundation has provided substantial support to Savio House. In 1983, the Tschetter-Schlessman addition (named for the two Denver Lions—Paul Tschetter and Lee Schlessman—who spearheaded the fund-raising) provided modern living quarters, a new kitchen and dining room, and a recreation area. This expansion cost \$348,000 (\$717,000 in 2016 dollars), and the Denver Lions Foundation, private foundations, and individual contributions provided the funds. In 1991, another major expansion added the Education Center, providing modern classrooms, a computer center, and a library. A new dining hall followed these additions in 1994, as well as a community-based service center in 2001. Savio House has added two more locations in Denver, a group home, and an office building. The trustees have since approved expansions to Longmont, Colorado Springs (two sites), and Canon City.



Denver headquarters of Savio House, 1991

In 2015, Savio served a total 5,865 people throughout the front range of Colorado. Savio House has 210 employees with an annual budget of \$13 million. Additional growth will result from the recent purchase of three lots on the corner of West Third Avenue and King Street. The site is now being prepared for development.



Savio House director Lion Bill Hildenbrand receiving a donation from Enterprise Rental Company, 1986.

The director of Savio House for the past thirty-seven years, Lion William Hildenbrand is a longtime member of the Denver Lions Club. Over the years, Denver Lions have served as president of the Savio House board, including David Goldstein, Elbert Bidwell, Robert Wherry, Edward Hanley, Robert Mosher, William Haldeman, and Don Smith. Many other Denver Lions have served on its board of directors.

The operations of Savio House are largely funded by payments from state and county government agencies and by local school districts. Maintenance and expansion of the physical plant is funded by support from contributions



Playground at Savio House, 2014

and funds set aside for depreciation. Savio House also has an endowment fund created by individual contributions.

Lions Clubs International selected Savio House as a “Top Ten Club Service Activity” in 1987. The Denver Lions continue to support the work of Savio House with volunteer time for workdays and by participating actively on the board of directors. In the 2015–16 Lion Year, the Denver Lions Foundation made grants totaling \$15,000 to Savio House. The Council On Accreditation (the gold standard in the United States) again accredited Savio House in 2015.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIONS EYE BANK (RMLEB)

During their long service to the blind and visually impaired, Lions clubs began providing support for eye banks more than sixty years ago. Today, there are over sixty Lions eye banks in nine countries. Through the dedication and commitment of Lions, thousands of men, women, and children have received the “gift of sight.”

Corneal transplants are not new. The first successful human-to-human transplant was performed in 1911. In 1934, eye tissue from a deceased person was employed for the first time. For the last forty years, corneal transplantation has been a routine procedure. Located in the front of the eye, the cornea is the clear window through which light passes. It may become clouded through injury, disease, infection, or congenital defects, resulting in varying degrees of blindness. A corneal transplant replaces the damaged cornea with a new cornea taken from the eye of a donor. This process restores sight in 95 percent of cases.



An RMLEB technician checks tissue with a microscope that was donated by the Denver Lions, 2016.

The Lions of Colorado and Wyoming founded the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank in 1982. Beginning with just a handful of donors, the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank is now recognized the world over for its eye-banking expertise. In any language, RMLEB means service, quality, and compassion. The Eye Bank is part of an extensive international network that allows eye donors from Colorado and Wyoming to restore sight to thousands of people throughout the world.

Cornea tissue has a “shelf-life” of about fourteen days. Corneas recovered and processed by RMLEB are first placed with local recipients. If a suitable local recipient cannot

be found, the Eye Bank searches for a recipient elsewhere in the United States. Finally, if a suitable recipient cannot be found domestically, an international search takes place so that no transplantable eye tissue goes to waste for lack of a local recipient. All of this is facilitated through an International Cornea Network.

Throughout the years, RMLEB’s surroundings have changed as dramatically as the Eye Bank itself. Its first home was one room in Dawson Hall, the old nursing school at Presbyterian/St. Luke’s Medical Center in Denver. The Eye Bank soon outgrew Dawson Hall and moved to other facilities. In 2001, however, RMLEB moved to its current state-of-the-art home at the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

In 2015, tissue donations totaled 2,355, resulting in 2,220 transplants. These were both records over the previous year and demonstrate the dedication of the staff of the RMLEB. Supporting the Eye Bank with monetary contributions has been part of the Denver Lions Foundation program. In 2016, the Denver Club provided funds for a new microscope that is vital to the ability of the Eye Bank to prepare the tissue for the eye surgeons.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIONS EYE INSTITUTE (RMLEI)

In October 1987, Austin Jennings, then first vice president of Lions Clubs International, was the keynote speaker at the seventieth anniversary celebration of the Denver Club. In his speech, he described the activities of other Lions in developing eye institutes and vision centers throughout the United States and the world. That speech sparked a keen interest for an eye institute among several members of the Denver Club, including Steve Kinney, Bob Sweeney, and Don Fullerton.

At that time, the Rocky Mountain region was the country’s largest geographic area and population base lacking a comprehensive center for the care of vision defects and eye diseases. Even today, the RMLEI is the only facility of its type in the Rocky Mountain region—between Canada and Mexico to the north and south, and Salt Lake City and Omaha to the west and east.

A medical institute of any kind must have three essential components to legitimately qualify as an institute: research, education, and patient care. This mandates that an institute be associated with a medical school or a teaching hospital. Denver Lions approached Dr. Bernard Nelson, the chancellor of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (CUHSC), with the idea of establishing a major eye institute at the Health Sciences Center. Denver Lions found a willing and receptive ally in Dr. Nelson. The University of Colorado (CU) actually had explored such a possibility with other potential partners, but without success. Thus, the university was enthusiastic about the possibility of partnering with the Lions, given their history of leadership in eyesight projects.



The Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute building (Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank is also housed here), 2000



The University of Colorado Foundation was approached, and—with the guidance of its president, Charles McCord—agreed to invest seed money to explore the feasibility of the University of Colorado and the Lions establishing such an institute. The Denver Lions Club realized that the establishment of a major eye institute was going to require the help of many Lions clubs, and that the benefits of the Eye Institute likewise would be widespread. They turned to another Lions project, the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank, as a model of a cooperative project among Lions (not only statewide, but interstate) to accomplish a major challenge. In 1991, the Denver Club presented the idea to both the Colorado Council of Governors and the Wyoming Council of Governors as a joint initiative. They found Lions of vision and stature in both Colorado and Wyoming who became enthusiastic about the Eye Institute project.

With seed money from the Denver Lions Foundation and the CU Foundation, leaders set out to develop the idea among Lions in the two states by traveling, speaking to clubs, and meeting with influential Lions in many communities. In 1991, the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute Foundation (RMLEI Foundation) was formed to be the fund-raising mechanism for the Eye Institute. In October of that year, the RMLEI Foundation entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the CU Health Sciences Center through which the Lions committed to raise \$6 million to help construct a building to house the institute, and CU committed to finish, furnish, equip, and administer the institute. The total cost of the institute when finished was approximately \$12 million, half of which was provided by the RMLEI Foundation. The project has been a true partnership between the RMLEI Foundation and the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

The \$6 million campaign to build the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute was launched in 1991 throughout the states of Colorado and Wyoming. The Lions raised the money in various ways (pancake breakfasts, member donations, pin sales, candy sales, corporate and foundation gifts), but the majority of funding came from several substantial donor gifts. The first large gift came from the Kenneth Kendal King Foundation. Ken King had been a longtime Denver Lion. Upon his death, he left the bulk of his estate to a foundation he created. The board of the King Foundation agreed to donate \$1.5 million to the project.

The second-largest gift came from the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) in a series of grants, many of them from SightFirst funds. These grants totaled \$425,000, and the RMLEI Foundation raised a matching amount. The grants from LCIF were vital to the project's success. Over the twelve-year fund-raising period, members of the Denver Club contributed over \$500,000 to the project. In addition to those gifts, the Foundation received gifts from individual Lions, other Lions clubs, and other individuals and organizations. It took twelve years to complete the \$6 million campaign, but the length of the campaign brought some advantages—in particular, a better location for the Eye Institute.

In the late 1990s, the US Army Fitzsimons Hospital property in Aurora became available as a result of US military base closures. This presented an opportunity to place a major medical facility of the twenty-first century—a brand new Health Sciences Center—at a nationally renowned army hospital that had treated the sick and wounded in the wars of the twentieth century. The RMLEI Foundation

was instrumental in facilitating the decision by the University of Colorado to move the entire Health Sciences Center campus to the Fitzsimons property. The Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute was one of the first occupants of the new CUHSC campus location. Today, the entire CU medical campus is located on the five-hundred-acre site.

In April 1995, the Health Sciences Center recruited Dr. J. Bronwyn Bateman to chair the Department of Ophthalmology and to become the director of the Eye Institute. Dr. Bateman is a specialist in pediatric ophthalmology and ophthalmic genetics. She joined the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center after a fifteen-year tenure at UCLA's world-famous Jules Stein Eye Institute, a premier university-based eye center. Dr. Bateman's teachings and research are recognized both nationally and internationally. She joined the Denver Lions Club and traversed the states of Wyoming and Colorado to raise funds and create awareness, visiting any Lions club to which she was invited. Other Denver Lions who worked tirelessly in the fund-raising effort include Bob Sweeney, Rod Wicklund, Mike Dux, Ray Cushman, Bob Appleman, Bob Litchard, Hal Torgan, Ted Greenfield, and Bob Hix. Lions Paul Barbour, Harold Hein, Don Fullerton, Dianne Pape, Bob Frye, and Sally Hooks served many years on the Board of Trustees of the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute Foundation.

Dr. Bateman recruited outstanding talent, and the faculty soon expanded from three doctors to eighteen. Dr. Bateman served ably as chair until 2005, building a solid foundation from which the Eye Institute could grow. The Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute opened its doors in May 2001; since then, it has offered the highest-quality vision-saving services to the people of the Rocky Mountain region. Now the RMLEI Foundation is diligently seeking ways to reach out to the people in our communities to make those crucial services available to all who need them, regardless of insurance level or financial circumstances. Building the Eye Institute brought both challenges and times of adversity, but through the dedication and determination of many Lions, the goals were achieved.

By the end of the Eye Institute's first decade of operation, the patient load was putting considerable pressure on the physical facilities. Between 2004 and 2014, the patient visits quadrupled from fifteen thousand to sixty thousand. When the building was designed, provisions were made for expansion. The building was expanded from 48,000 square feet to 135,000 square feet. The Eye Institute asked the RMLEI Foundation and the Colorado and Wyoming Lions to raise \$1.3 million to provide the furnishings and equipment for ten exam rooms in the new retina clinic. The Foundation—together



Lions Dr. J. Bronwyn Bateman, director of the Eye Institute, Don Fullerton (center), and Bob Sweeney at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute, 1998.



with the Colorado and Wyoming Lions—raised the money. Grants from LCIF contributed the largest single donation, amounting to \$625,000. The Denver Lions Foundation applied for and received a grant of \$25,000 from the King Foundation, which was matched by the Denver Lions Foundation to provide \$50,000 to the RMLEI Foundation for an exam room.

Today, the Eye Institute has a faculty and professional research group of seventy-six. It is the only academic eye center in a radius of five hundred miles. In 2015, the Eye Institute served 95,106 patients. The staff trains twenty-one ophthalmology residents and fellows annually. The Eye Institute is home to six specialized programs of excellence in research and clinical care: ocular stem cell and regeneration, macular degeneration, ophthalmic research, a visual sciences innovation program, a clinical effectiveness program, and glaucoma research.



Denver Lions Dwight Steen, Janice Fritsch, executive director of the King Foundation, Myrna Ann Adkins, and John Molberg presenting a check to Lions Jim Burton (far right), board member of the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute Foundation, and Randall Stubbs, gifts officer for the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute, October 2014.

KIDSIGHT

There are many eye conditions and diseases that can affect a child’s vision. Some of the more common conditions focus on alignment disorders and eye diseases such as strabismus (misalignment), amblyopia (lazy eye), myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism (refractive errors). Early diagnosis and treatment are critical to maintaining good eye health.

The Colorado Lions clubs and the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center created the Colorado Lions KidSight Program (KidSight Colorado) in 1999. The KidSight Colorado program is committed to ensuring that all children in the state of Colorado receive



Denver Lion Jim Hannifin performing a KidSight screening, 2012



A mother signing her children up for a KidSight screening at the Dragon Boat Festival, 2016

the highest-quality eye screening available. In May 2000, a committee of Lions traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, to observe a state-of-the-art vision-screening program at Vanderbilt University, the first program developed in the country.

The Colorado screening program began with a single piece of equipment, a “photo screener,” which was purchased by the Denver Lions Foundation. This camera (which required a Polaroid-type film) was passed around to Lions clubs throughout the state. Due to high demand, eight other clubs from around the state purchased cameras the following year.

In 2001, the Lions of Colorado Multiple District 6 received a FourCore grant from Lions Clubs International (LCI). This grant allowed for the purchase of additional screeners, and the program began to grow. The program operated under both the Colorado Lions Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank until 2012. In 2012, the KidSight Colorado program became a separate nonprofit organization.

As vision-screening technology continued to advance, the program swapped the cameras for Welch Allyn SureSight screeners. These units did not rely on Polaroid film (which was becoming harder to obtain), but they were difficult to operate because this handheld device relied on audio signals that were tough for the operator to distinguish. The program currently uses Plusoptix mobile S12 screeners that screen binocularly for six common childhood vision problems. These devices are easy to use and enable the program to handle the data acquired in a digital format. The Denver Lions Foundation purchased two of the Plusoptix devices, and they are in constant use during the school year.

In 2015–16, KidSight Colorado screened forty-eight thousand children, up from six thousand in 2004. Since the program began, more than 334,000 Colorado children have been screened. Of these children, about 11 percent are referred to an eye-care professional for further evaluation. The current goal for KidSight Colorado is to screen fifty thousand children yearly. There are about seventy thousand births in Colorado each year. KidSight screenings cover children born in multiple years, so it is estimated that the program is screening about 20 percent of the target-aged children.

The Denver Den has been involved in the KidSight program since the beginning, including one member of the Club who sat on the committee that visited the Vanderbilt program in 2000. Many Club members conduct



A happy child after his KidSight screening, 2011



Lion Tishlyn Taylor attempts to screen the Broncos mascot at a KidSight screening at Broncos Stadium, 2013.

screenings in schools and community events. Lions Russ Lynn, Steve Krebsbach, and Fletcher Brown have been the principal champions of the program and deserve the credit for making it a success. The number of children screened by the Denver Club has increased from 253 in 2001–02 to 3,359 in 2015–16.

GLASSES FOR THE MASSES

A little-heralded (but very important) program is the recycling of used eyeglasses. Rather than have used eyeglasses simply end up in a landfill, the Lions collect them. The used eyeglasses collected from all of the clubs in Colorado are shipped to the Sterling Lions Club. The Sterling Club oversees the processing of the glasses by inmates at the Sterling Correctional Facility. Processing consists of sanitizing the glasses; sorting them by male/female style, single/bifocal, and adult/children; reading the prescription; and packaging them by categories. The processed eyeglasses are then made available primarily to developing countries for distribution to people who could otherwise not afford to buy glasses. In many cases, the recycled glasses are provided to Lions clubs that are conducting vision screening and eyeglass distribution projects, but other community service organizations can obtain recycled glasses as well. The Sterling Recycling Center ships between forty-five thousand and eighty-five thousand pairs of recycled glasses each year.

The Denver Lions Club has been involved in the collection and processing of recycled eyeglasses since at least the early 1960s. Today, the Denver Club has more than a hundred collection locations throughout the Denver metro area. In addition, some of the larger optical centers ship used eyeglasses left by customers to the Denver Lions Club office on a regular basis.



Denver Lions Harry Cole and Lloyd King with recycled eyeglasses being prepared for shipment to India in 1966



Sterling Lions sanitizing recycled eyeglasses, 2010



Sterling Lions reading prescriptions of recycled eyeglasses, 2010

INTERNATIONAL EYE MISSIONS

Several members of the Denver Club who had been involved in international work began exploring the idea of an eye mission in a developing country. Ecuador was selected since Lion Susy Osorio-Kinsky, a member of the Denver Lions Club, had been a member of the Quito Central Lions Club. The two clubs agreed to cooperate on an eye mission.

Ecuador is a country with high levels of poverty, especially in the rural areas. The World Bank data indicates that in rural Ecuador, over half the population lives in poverty. People living below the poverty line are hard pressed to afford either an eye examination or the cost of corrective lenses. The objective of the proposed Denver-Quito Central Lions Eyeglass Mission to Ecuador was to improve the vision of a group of Ecuadorean citizens who would not have access to vision services.



Lion Fletcher Brown conducts an initial screening in Ecuador, 2015

The Denver Club received a grant from LCIF to purchase a used, handheld Nikon Retinomax auto-refractor. About six thousand pairs of recycled eyeglasses were obtained from the Sterling Lions for the mission. The Lions in Quito and Lions in the town of Ambato identified locations for the screenings. The process began with a registration table, where participants completed a registration form. The vision of each participant was tested using a standard Snellen eye chart. The auto-refractor was used to determine the required correction. Participants were then screened for eye diseases and other abnormalities by eye care professionals on the team. Recycled eyeglasses were provided in so far as proper prescriptions were available. When recycled eyeglasses were not available, the Denver Club arranged to have the corrective lenses made locally.



Left: A child before strabismus surgery, 2015



Right: The same child after strabismus surgery, 2015

The first mission took place in 2013, with five members of the Denver Lions Club and two friends of the Lions on the US team. Nearly a thousand people were screened in four different locations. The team distributed 370 pairs of eyeglasses and arranged for another 200 pairs to be made locally. A second mission to Ecuador took place in 2015. This time, the Denver Lions worked with the Denver Southeast Rotary Club, the Lions of Guaranda, Ecuador, and the Universidad Metropolitana Optometry School in Ecuador. An ophthalmologist from the Rotary club performed surgeries while the Lions worked on screenings.



Lions Steve Kinsky and Susy Osorio-Kinsky with Lions in Nepal during an eye mission, 2014



Unfortunately, the government of Ecuador legislated a ban on the distribution of recycled eyeglasses. However, Fundación Vista Para Todos, an Ecuadorean NGO, and Universidad Metropolitana Optometry School were able to provide corrective lenses. The mission performed sixty strabismus and forty cataract surgeries, screened 2,700 patients, and distributed five hundred custom-made glasses and readers. Fifty-eight volunteers accomplished this work, including twenty-two from the United States and thirty-six from various parts of Ecuador. Lions Steve Kinsky, Susy Osorio-Kinsky, Myrna Ann Adkins, Fletcher Brown, Ned Nagle, and Ellie Weidner were members of one or both of the Ecuador missions.

9HEALTH FAIR

In the late 1970s, John F. Brensike, a physician conducting heart disease research at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, DC, became involved in cholesterol screenings. As he traveled the country, he observed a high level of interest from communities to provide screening services. However, he noted that few screenings were available and the quality varied. But more importantly, he noted that there was no mechanism to provide health education and medical follow-up to the community. From there, Dr. Brensike started the National Health Screening Council for Volunteer Organizations (NHSCVO) as a means of promoting preventative health maintenance. Through this organization, the health fair concept was born. The idea was presented by NHSCVO to interested communities across the country.



Lion Jim Hannifin working at the 9Health Fair, 2009

In Colorado, NHSCVO approached Al Flanagan, then president of KBTB Channel 9 in Denver, which is now 9NEWS (the NBC affiliate). The television station recognized the value of this effort to the community and agreed to provide both financial and media support to help launch the first health fair. In 1980, the first 9Health Fair was staged with support from hundreds of medical and nonmedical volunteers, the Lions clubs of Colorado, and the Colorado National Guard. To this day, all three groups remain steadfast in their roles with the 9Health Fair as important in-kind sponsors.

In 1987, the 9Health Fair became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. With the sole mission of advancing health awareness and providing people with the tools they need to take responsibility for their own health, and because of the support of sixteen thousand statewide volunteers, 9Health Fair has helped save thousands of lives by providing free and low-cost health awareness and educational screenings. To date, 9Health Fair is the only program of its magnitude, and it has become a community institution as a result of the NHSCVO initiative. Since inception, 9Health Fair has impacted over 1.7 million individuals.

Denver Lions have been involved from the beginning, and volunteer annually to provide cashiering services for a number of 9Health Fairs in the Denver metro area. An important function of every Lion cashier is to ask participants if they care to make a donation to the 9Health Fair. Over the years, Lions have collected hundreds of thousands of dollars for this organization.

RINGING THE BELLS AT CHRISTMAS

Another tradition for members of the Denver Club is bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Records of the amount of money collected for the Salvation Army do not exist. Lions are not as interested in the amount of money raised as they are in helping the Salvation Army help others. Bell ringing also gets Lions into the spirit of Christmas. It is a joy to witness members of the community as they prepare for the holidays at that time of the year.



Bell ringers Lions Joe Beagler and Joe Fratini collect a \$500 check in 2000.

COLORADO LIONS CAMP

In the 1960s, the Lions of Colorado began to consider the establishment of a camp for handicapped children. Property was acquired, and the camp is located on forty acres near Woodland Park, Colorado. The first building at the camp was opened in 1969 at a cost of \$250,000 (nearly \$1.4 million in 2016 dollars). The Colorado Lions Foundation took the lead in raising the money to establish the camp. Most clubs in Colorado were active in helping to raise funds. The Denver Den made substantial contributions. Initially, the Colorado Lions Foundation had to mortgage the property in order to build the infrastructure. Through the generosity of the Lions of Colorado, they were able to burn the mortgage in May 1977. Since the opening of the first building, a number of additional structures have been added, and today the facility can accommodate fifty campers and twenty-five staff.



Sign for the Lions Camp, 2000



Panorama of the Colorado Lions Camp, 1999

The facilities include a recreation room located on the lower level of the main lodge that offers table tennis, billiards, air hockey, foosball, board games, and puzzles. There is a large campfire area, horseshoe pits, a covered pavilion with lighting, a nine-hole miniature golf course, a baseball field, a playground, disc golf, and an RV parking area adjacent to a tent camping ground. There are two dormitories and four smaller lodges. The entire complex can sleep more than a hundred people indoors.

Originally built to serve only the blind, the camp has expanded to serve individuals ranging from children eight years old to senior adults who are blind or visually impaired, are deaf or hearing impaired, have Down syndrome, are developmentally delayed, have autism/Asperger's syndrome, have ADD/ADHD, or who are physically impaired or wheelchair-bound. The camp hosts 350 to 400 campers during the summer months. During the winter, the camp offers respite care for eight to ten campers one weekend per month. In addition, the facilities are used for the Lions International Youth Exchange for a week in the summer.



The main lodge at Lions Camp, 2000



A group of happy campers, 2000



Roger Sherman, assistant district sales manager of the Lincoln Mercury division of Ford Motor Company, presents keys to Denver Lion Bill Day, president of the Colorado Lions Foundation, to raise money for the Lions Camp, 1966.





The marquee of the theater showing *The Lion* (starring William Holden and Trevor Howard) in 1962, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Denver Lions Club.

CHAPTER 4

A LOOK BACK — ANNIVERSARIES, CONVENTIONS, AND NOTABLE MEMBERS

ANNIVERSARIES AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

The Denver Lions Club celebrated its fortieth anniversary with a banquet attended by over five hundred Lions and guests at the Savoy Hotel in November 1957. The keynote speaker was Lion Roy Keaton, the director-general of Lions Clubs International. Lions George Doll and Wayne Norman, both past international directors, presented six charter members of the Club with forty-year certificates.



Fortieth Anniversary held at the Savoy Hotel, with five hundred Lions and guests, 1957

The Brown Palace Hotel was the venue of the fiftieth anniversary, celebrated in October 1967. The speaker was Lion Jorge Bird of Puerto Rico, the president of Lions International. Celebrants were welcomed to the event by Mrs. John A. Love, wife of the governor, and Mayor Tom Currigan of Denver. The prime rib dinner cost \$7.50 per couple (about \$54 in 2016 dollars).

The seventy-fifth anniversary was celebrated with the publication of a newspaper-style history of the Denver Lions Club in 1992. The celebration dinner was held at the Radisson Hotel Downtown. By this time, the cost of a dinner had risen sharply to \$30 per person (\$52 in 2016 dollars). The guest speaker was Dr. Tom Sutherland, who



Program for the 50th Anniversary Gala, 1967



Above: Ticket to the 50th Anniversary Gala, 1967

Left: A special newspaper-style history for the 75th Anniversary in 1992



Congratulations to my fellow Lions, past and present, for all you have done to make our club one of the very best in carrying out our Lions motto, "We Serve."
—Thanks, Jim Nussbaum



had been held hostage by Shiite Muslims in Beirut for six and a half years. Dr. Sutherland had been the dean of agriculture at American University in Beirut, Lebanon, while on sabbatical from Colorado State University.

The Club celebrated every other major anniversary in similar style. The twentieth anniversary featured Lion Frank V. Birch, the international president, as the speaker. The menu included:

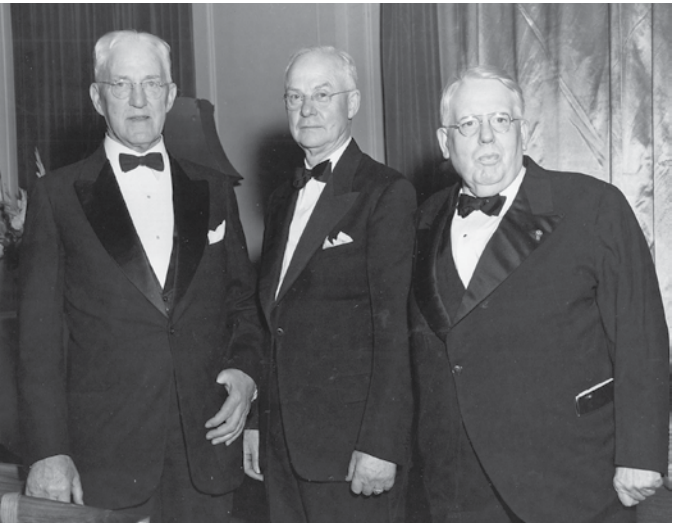
Seafood Canapé Neptune	Candied Sweet Potatoes and Green Beans
Cream of Tomato Soup	Blackstone Salad with French Dressing
Colorado Pascal Celery Mixed Mission Olives	Chocolate Nut Sundae
Colorado Roast Turkey-Dressing and Cranberry Sauce	Petits Fours and Coffee



First row, seated on floor, left to right: K. Hawkins, M. Westblade, I. Carlson, N. Nagle, J. Desmond, E. Williams, E. O'Brien, W. Williams, S.Kinney, and M. Patino. Second row, seated on floor: T. Greenfield, R. Shaffer, D. Neithercutt, R. Lynn, J. Webster, R. Reginelli, B. Sharp, S. Bewley, S. Diccico, R. Finch, S. Playton, T. Lutts, D. Gore, M. James, K. Wilson, and R. Sweeney. Third row, seated: T. Jenkins, R. Backus, F. Bain, E. Bails, W. Webster, H. Edler, H. Kountze, W. Adams, M. Dux, L. Hoover, V. Playton, G. Edwards, J. Naber, F. Russell, and D. Tomlin. Fourth row, standing: J. Frattini, R. Wickund, A. Schimmel, W. Johnson, M. Krane, P. Hoovler, P. Barbour, H. Pande, D. Haave, R. Parker, K. Fuller, H. Hein, J. Amberg, D. Albrecht, K. Washauer, G. Mason, A. Dunn, R. Barnes, W. Crowley, H. Martin, E. Connolly, and P. Tschetter. Fifth Row, standing: P. Ball, L. Kawcak, A. Cook, R. Strand, C. Murray, D. Mazar, J. Blackinton, S. Haskins, G. Custard, J. Burke, D. Maun, W. Hildenbrand, (unknown), J. Anderson, R. Sidwell, A. Patton, D. Hart, P. Foehl, B. Slota, J. Mosser, D. Troyer, J. McNearney, and J. Downing, 1992.

In addition, the celebrants danced to the music of Lion Charles Scheuerman's orchestra.

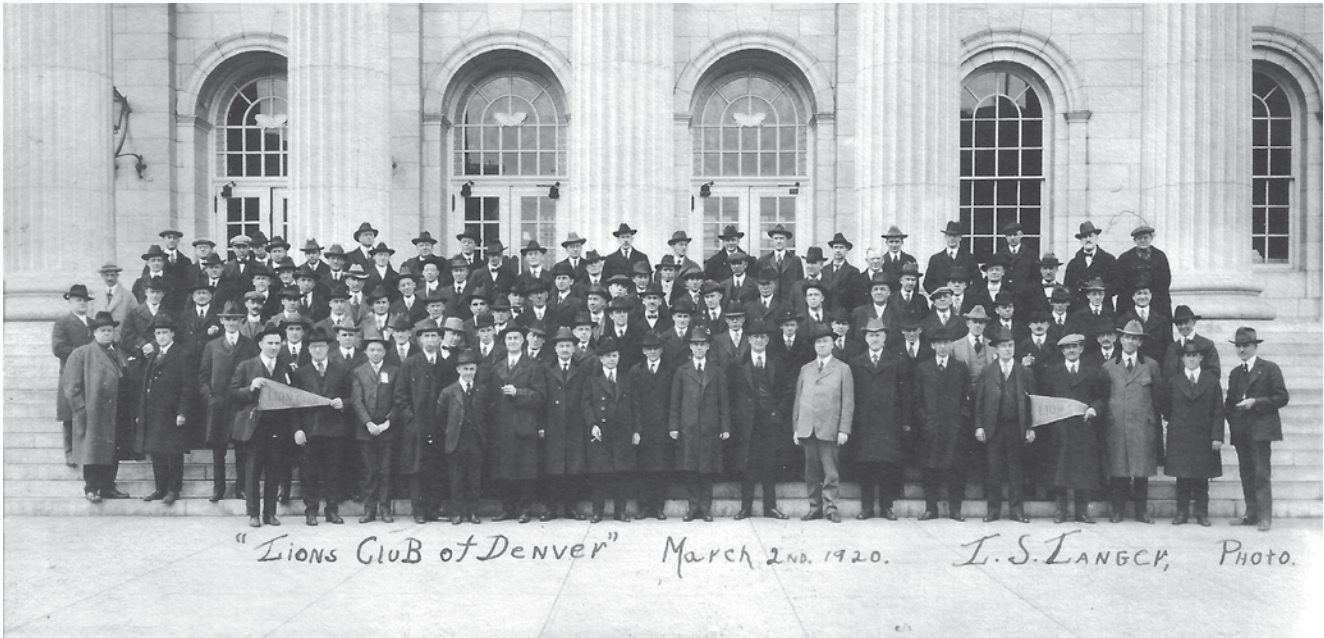
Lion Melvin Jones, then executive secretary of Lions International, was the featured speaker at the thirtieth anniversary of the Club. The speaker at the seventieth celebration was First International Vice President Austin P. Jennings; his speech provided the impetus resulting in the creation of the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute. Past International President William L. Biggs spoke at the eightieth celebration, and Mrs. Dottie Lamm, wife of former Colorado governor Richard Lamm, was the keynote speaker at the eighty-fifth anniversary.



Secretary General Melvin Jones (right), the speaker at the thirtieth anniversary of the Denver Den in 1947, with Denver Club President A. B. Lewis (center) and Past International President Dr. C. C. Reid (left).

1920 CONVENTION

Denver has hosted more International Lions Conventions than any other city except Chicago. The convention in 1920 resulted in the first president of the Denver Den, Dr. C. C. Reid, being elected president of Lions Clubs International. By 1920, there were nearly 6,500 members in 113 clubs, one of which was in Canada, making the Association of Lions an international organization. Two hundred eighty-four delegates from thirty-two clubs attended the convention.



Denver Lions Club in 1920

1930 CONVENTION

The convention was held at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Denver. The Denver Den Glee Club, several local bands, an organist, and several vocalists provided entertainment. The Denver Den also performed their annual minstrel show for the delegates and their guests. One evening was dedicated to “An All Out-West Show” at the Denver Civic Center, with two hundred cowboys and Indians, dancing, roping, and singing.

A highlight of the convention was the “One Hundred Mile Tour Through Scenic Wonders of Colorado’s Majestic Mountains.” Cars departed from the Civic Center and drove up to the hogback, through the new \$100,000 Red Rocks Amphitheater, and on to Evergreen. From there, the tour continued to Idaho Springs, to Echo Lake with Mount Evans in the background, and on to Lookout Mountain and the grave of Buffalo Bill. Then it was on down to Golden past the Colorado School of Mines and back to the Civic Center. The convention also featured a golf tournament held at the Wellshire Country Club (site of the Denver Den’s one-hundredth-anniversary celebration).

1988 CONVENTION

For the seventy-first Annual Convention held in Denver, the theme was “Future Horizons.” More than thirty thousand Lions attended this convention. The convention featured a series of seminars on topics such as forming Leo clubs, creating eye banks, fund-raising, International Youth Exchange, hearing programs, leadership skills, LCIF, and planning a dynamic program. There was a parade of clubs that ended at Civic Center Park with an International Food Fair. The Denver Den entered the parade with a float that was awarded second place by the judges.

The keynote speaker at the seventy-first Annual Convention was Nobel Prize recipient Elie Wiesel, acclaimed author, lecturer, and advocate for human rights. The February issue of the *Lions Club Magazine* had a six-page spread touting the attractions Denver had to offer. Featured were restaurants such as the Buckhorn Exchange, the free shuttle on the 16th Street Mall, the Elitch Gardens, the Denver Center for Performing Arts, and the many museums.

During the convention, the Denver Den held a western-style barbecue for those Lions from the Nagoya East Lions Club (our Sister club in Japan) who were in attendance. The Denver Club organized a sumptuous Founders Clubs luncheon at the Petroleum Club that was attended by six other Founders Clubs. The Club also arranged a reception at the governor’s mansion for the Lions International and Colorado VIPs, both past and present. Governor Roy Romer welcomed Judge Brian Stevenson, president of Lions International from Calgary, Canada, who presented the Melvin Jones Fellowship to Denver Lion Kenneth King, the first Lion in the Denver Den to receive this high award.



The Denver Lions Club’s second-place float for the 1988 International Convention



A bumper sticker that the Club had made for the 1988 International Convention

A 1988 edition of the *Lions Club Magazine* featuring Denver as the host city for the International Convention



Attendees at the 1930 International Convention in Denver



2003 CONVENTION

Denver was once again selected to host the 86th Annual Convention in 2003. Governor Bill Owens welcomed the forty thousand Lions and guests to Colorado at the opening session. One of the features of the convention was the Academy Awards of Lionism, given out for such accomplishments as the most new clubs started by a single Lion (twenty-eight) and the most new members recruited by a single Lion (222). Awards were given for the most-significant service project, the most-original service project, and the most-unusual ongoing service project. This latter project involved the establishment of a dairy in the Philippines to enable small-scale dairy producers to market a safe product.

By the 2003 convention, the Denver Den had learned how to build a float that took first place in the Parade of Nations. In addition to the floats, prizes were awarded for the best high school band, the best state band, the best precision demonstration units, and the best-uniformed marchers. The Colorado Lions clubs joined forces to provide a traditional Lions pancake breakfast to the Lions and their guests. Attendees were entertained by Bobby Vinton and his daughter Jennifer singing “Blue Velvet.”

The Denver Den hosted its Sister club, Nagoya East of Nagoya, Japan, to a memorable garden party. The party, held at the home of Lions Bob and Kathleen Reginelli, featured musical entertainment and the exchange of gifts. The Denver Den also arranged the Founders Clubs luncheon, emceed by Lion Bob Sweeney and with keynote speaker Past International President William L. Biggs. Many members of the Denver Den were instrumental in making this convention a success. Lions Russ and Dottie Lynn co-chaired the committee that organized the event. Other members of the committee included Taylor and Anita Albrecht, Emerson Bails, Doug Brown, Hank and Betty Edler, Bob Frye, Larry Garrity, Don Johnson, John Maus, and Rod Wicklund.



The Denver Lions Club's first-place float at the 2003 International Convention



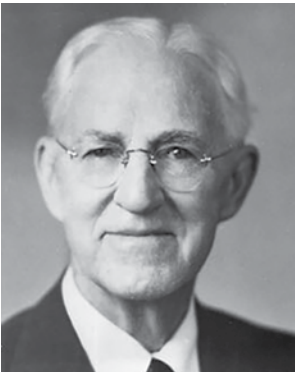
The Denver Den welcomes the Nagoya East Lions in 1988.

TYPICAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE DENVER CLUB

The Lion Year 1960–61 began with two members providing the Club with a new American flag with fifty stars, since Hawaii and Alaska had become states in 1959. That year also marked the passing of both Melvin Jones (June 1, 1961) and Dr. C. C. Reid (September 11, 1961). The preceding summer, Dr. Reid, as the oldest living past international president, had opened the International Convention in Chicago, where he received the admiration of the thousands of Lions in attendance.

A look at the activities of the forty-fifth year of the Club (1962–63) provides an excellent overview of the Denver Lions Club. That year, the Club held forty-five meetings, of which twenty-nine had speakers on topics of Lionism, travel, politics, sports, humor, citizenship, legal issues, education, and inspiration. One of the speakers was the legendary Eddie Rickenbacker. The remaining meetings were dedicated to movies (five), music (five), parties (four), the Foundation annual meeting (one), and the installation of officers (one).

A fire at the Albany Hotel had destroyed both the Club meeting room and the Club office, so meetings were held at various locations that had capacity for the Club. At that time, the Club had 375 members, and 80 percent were attending the weekly meetings. The Club lost twenty-six members (nineteen resignations and seven deaths) that year, but inducted fifty-five new members.



Dr. Charles C. Reid gave birth to the Denver Lions Club when he agreed with E. A. Hick to invite community leaders to a meeting to hear about Lionism in June 1917. Dr. Reid became the first president of the Club (1917–18), the fourth president of the International Association (1920–21), and he helped draft the Constitution and By-Laws of the International Association. He was born in Marion, Illinois, in 1873 and became a recognized specialist in osteopathy. He founded the Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital in Denver, and he remained an active Lion until his final illness.



Left to right: Lions Don James, Ken King, and President Lloyd King with Captain Eddie Rickenbacker in 1962



Products produced by blind persons on display at a Club meeting in 1939

Thirty-six members attended the State Lions Convention in Colorado Springs. Prizes of \$100 each were collected for the Club's quartet performance and the Club's stunt entry. The Club was written about in two issues of the *Lions Club Magazine*: January 1963 for the forty-fifth anniversary, held in October 1962, and the February 1963 issue highlighting the Eisenhower Chapel project.

As was the custom, the Denver Lions staged grand parties for members and their guests. For example, in 1941, more than four hundred people attended the annual Valentine party; the theme that year was "A Night in New Orleans." The walls of the ballroom were decorated with paintings of scenes from the French Quarter that were ten by twenty feet. The entrance was made up like a Louisiana wharf with bales of cotton, bags of rice, a 350-pound Negro "mammy," and banjo-playing wharf men. The dinner was Cajun style with Antoine's Cookery, pralines, and Spanish moss. A floorshow, dancing, and bridge rounded out the evening. The party theme of the previous year had been "A Night in Havana."



A photograph of the cotton bales and murals for the "Night in New Orleans," 1941

The board of directors adopted the following projects:

- Continuance of the Junior Lions program
- Awarding miniature bronze bells to visiting Lions from the greatest distance
- Selling products made by the blind at every meeting
- Contributing ten cents per member towards the cost of printing the district governor's monthly bulletin
- Procuring an American flag that had flown over the US Capitol for Rude Park Day Care Center
- Granting \$100 to the Adult Education Council of Metropolitan Denver
- Contributing \$10 to help defray the cost of the Rude Park Christmas party
- Publicizing the movie *The Lion at the Centre Theatre* (the Club received twenty cents for each adult ticket, which amounted to \$1,245 (nearly \$10,000 in 2016 dollars) that was then donated to the Denver Zoo
- Supporting the annual musical of the Englewood Lions Club
- Making an appeal for used clothing for inmates of the city and county jails



A photograph of Lions and guests at the entrance to "A Night in Havana," 1940

NOTABLE MEMBERS

At the risk of omitting some who deserve mention, a number of members need to be highlighted for their significant contributions. The Denver Den might not exist today had not Dr. Charles C. Reid initiated the first meeting of Denver businessmen in June 1917. He played a critical role in the organization of the Club and in the formation of the International Association. Another key player in the early days was John S. Fabling, who served as international director from 1920 to 1923. Richard Osenbaugh became the second Denver Club member to serve as international president in 1935–36. Bert Kelly served as international director from 1938 to 1941. He also served as the Club president and as the district governor. Other Denver Den members who served as district governors include Louis Cameron (1918–19), Frank Carringer (1919–1920), Walter Simon (1944–45), Ludwig Rettig (1951–52), Kenneth King (1959–1960), William Day (1967–68), William Webster (1983–84) and Paul Barbour (2000–01). Bob Sweeney (1972–73) and Don Fullerton (1986–87) also served as district governors, but they were members in different clubs at the time. These distinguished members served on the board, held various offices, and worked on committees during their many years as Lions. They were also leaders in the Denver business community.

The Club was proud to have Rep. Byron G. Rogers of the United States House of Representatives (1951–1971) as a member. He was involved in the creation of Rude Park Day Care Center. The Byron G. Rogers Federal Building and US Courthouse (United States District Court), completed in 1965, was renamed for the Colorado congressman in 1984.

During his year as Club president, Kenneth King wanted to create a lasting tradition. He composed the "Hi! Hi!" song that serves to welcome guests at weekly luncheons. The idea came from his frequent visits to the Chicago Central Lions Club. They had an opening song of greeting to their own members. Ken first worked with his secretary to come up with the words, and then with a member of the Club, Hall Baetz, who had a musical background. The "Hi! Hi!" song is sung to the same tune as "Hail, Hail the Gang's



Richard Osenbaugh, CEO of Denver Sewer Pipe & Clay Company, served as the international president from 1935 to 1936.



Lions Club President Ken King (far right) presents certificates to founding members of the Club in 1952 (left to right): Harry Roberts, Rufus Gentry, Ernest Harris, Dr. Charles C. Reid, and Tod Butterworth.



Lions Club President Kenneth King during a meeting in 1952



All Here.” Lion Ken presented the “Hi! Hi!” song at his first meeting as Club president in 1952. It has been sung to Club guests for fifty-four years and was used to welcome Lions to the International Convention in Denver in 1988. The words to the song are as follows:

Hi, Hi we’re glad you’re here
(knock knock)
We’re glad to meet you (knock)
We’re glad to greet you (knock)
Hi, Hi we’re glad you’re here
You’re welcome at the Denver
Den (knock knock)



Chuck Collins at the microphone at KOA in 1952



Chuck Collins watching daughter Judy practice the piano and son Mike practice the cornet in 1952

Events described throughout the archives of the Club show that entertainment was an important part of community life, especially in the days before television. In the 1950s and ’60s, Denver Lion Charles “Chuck” Collins had a radio program on the Denver NBC affiliate (KOA) called *Collins Calling*. He would make comments on his show that might get broadcasters of today kicked off the air. For example, he was outspoken against Senator Joe McCarthy, and he was opposed to the war raging in Vietnam. Chuck was blind and would walk from his office to the Lions meetings in the Albany Hotel without a cane. He just snapped his fingers along the way and was able to navigate by listening to the echo. Sometimes Chuck would play the piano at meetings, and occasionally he brought his daughter, Judy Collins (now of international fame), to sing along with him.

Denver Lions Club archives show that thirty-five members of the Club served in World War II. During this difficult time, members who remained behind went to great lengths to remain connected to those serving by exchanging letters, sending newsletters (then called the *Roarer*), and sending Christmas gifts. The following excerpts from some of the return letters provide insight into what they faced, as well as their appreciation.



Chuck Collins at his braille writer preparing a script for his radio show in 1952

Thanks a million for the billfold, except I don’t have a million to put into it. It is a grand gift that gives one a warm feeling for the folks back home. Thanks, too, for the *Roarer* and the bulletins.

–Lion Harry Ward

I have been enjoying the notices of the weekly meetings, and the various letters from some of the swell members of the grand Denver Den. Thanks for all of them.

–Lion Don Davies

Just got a copy of the *Roarer* and it reminded me so much that wherever I have been the Lions Club always has mail waiting for me, that I thought I’d better write and thank you. It’s great to know there is a bunch of fellows back there, keeping in touch and keeping me part of them.

–Lion Fran Bain

On July 6th we sailed from Belfast. I commanded the troops of a fair sized ship, and I was the only one aboard who knew where we were going. After we were under way I asked the Captain, “Do you know where Omaha Beach is?” “So,” he said. “That’s it,” and it was. . . . The beach was littered with sunken ships, crashed airplanes and demolished pillboxes. The whole thing attested to the hellish fighting . . .

–Lion Col. Robert Bell

Of course our many other disappointments come under the heading of military information and cannot be reported in writing but I often wonder what the public reactions will be when a few millions of us get home and shout to the high heaven some of the actual experiences and visions we have gone through and seen daily.

–Lion Pete Ahlstedt

Our stay in the Philippines has been an eventful ordeal, much is happening, and you may be certain we are definitely having a part in the present push and we are very happy to know the end is in sight and we’re on hand to see the finish.

–Lion Pete Ahlstedt

Some of the older “ducks” who went over in ’17, will understand when I say I now know the meaning of “live and let live.” That should be the creed of the world.

–Lion Luther Warren

The experience of being in a strange country, and in a large city with blackout regulations, I will never forget. You folks in Denver just don’t know what real blackout means until you have been where total blackout regulations are in effect, and I mean TOTAL . . .

–Lion Arthur Filber



Our night actions with all the many colored tracers, reminds one of a Fourth of July celebration—only more dangerous. The best sight is a burning Jap plane as he goes through the air and then strikes the water. My battle station is on a gun mount where I am in charge of A-A guns so I get to see it all.

–Lion Lloyd Long

INTERNATIONAL ENDEAVORS OF THE DENVER LIONS

The International Club Twinning program promotes the Association’s Third Purpose: To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world. Through this program, Lions and Leos alike have the opportunity to formalize their friendships with clubs in other countries, learn about different cultures, exchange experiences and ideas about what it means to be a Lion, and add an international dimension to their service mission. Club Twinning is a voluntary and mutual agreement between two clubs (Lions with Lions, Leos with Leos) and can involve as much exchange and interaction as the two clubs desire.

There is reference in the files to the “adoption” of the Lions Club of Mexico City in 1952. This may have been the term used prior to Sister clubs and Twinning. The Denver Den celebrated a Sister Club Agreement with the Nagoya East Lions Club of Nagoya, Japan, in 1972. It seems that the idea for pairing the two clubs stems from the visit to Denver by a young woman participating in the Lions International Youth Exchange program in 1970. Her father, a member of the Nagoya East Club, contacted the Denver Lions Club and proposed a sister arrangement. The agreement between the two clubs was signed in Hawaii in March 1972. Over the years, members of the two clubs have had opportunities to visit with each other in Denver, in Nagoya, and at various International Conventions. In addition, individual members have visited the other club when traveling on business. The Denver Den also sent funds to the Nagoya East Club following the earthquake and tsunami in 2011.

H O N O R R O L L	Members of the Denver Lions Club who served in the Armed Forces during World War II...	
	 	
	KENNETH M. AHLSTEDT	U. S. Army
	LESLIE B. ARNOLD	U. S. Army
	FRANCIS M. BAIN	U. S. Army
	ROBERT P. BELL	U. S. Army
	ROY H. BLACKMAN, JR.	U. S. Army
	HARRY L. BLAIR	U. S. Navy
	JAMES E. BLUE	U. S. Army
	JAMES L. BRADLEY	U. S. Navy
	RICHARD H. BRIDGMAN	U. S. Army
	CHARLES F. CASSIDY, JR.	U. S. Army
	JOHN M. COUNTS	U. S. Army
	DONALD W. DAVIES	U. S. Army
	JOHN O. DENMAN	U. S. Navy
	WILLIAM H. FICKEL	U. S. Navy
	ARTHUR K. FILBER	U. S. Army
	HARRY E. FONTIUS, JR.	U. S. Navy
	MILTON C. GARWOOD	U. S. Navy
	ROBERT L. GEE	U. S. Navy
	LEWIS V. GIESECKE	U. S. Navy
	D. LLOYD HUGHES	U. S. Army
	N. PAUL ISBELL	U. S. Army
	CEDRIC KAUB	U. S. Army
	LLOYD J. KING	U. S. Navy
	HARRY W. LeFEVRE, JR.	U. S. Army
	LLOYD E. LONG	U. S. Navy
	FOSTER MATCHETT	U. S. Army
	C. HAROLD McCULLY	U. S. Navy
	ALFRED B. MILLER	U. S. Army
	GEORGE A. MORRIS III	U. S. Army
	MYRON D. NEUSTETER	U. S. Navy
	ROBERT J. ROSCHIE	U. S. Navy
	MELVIN A. ROWLEY	U. S. Army
	HAROLD M. TAGUE	U. S. Army
	THOMAS A. TAYLOR	U. S. Navy
	HARRY J. WARD	U. S. Navy
	MILTON WARREN	U. S. Army
	HAROLD M. WEBSTER	U. S. Army

A page from the 1946 Club Roster with the names of those members who served in World War II

The Lions club of Kathmandu Gliese contacted the Denver Den in 2014 and, using SKYPE, several cyber meetings were held. The result of these meetings was a visit to Nepal by Steve Kinsky and Susy Osorio-Kinsky of the Denver Den, with recycled eyeglasses and a handheld auto-refractor. Over the course of a week, some 850 people were screened and 650 pairs of eyeglasses were dispensed. After working together on this eyeglass mission, the two clubs signed a Twinning Agreement in 2014. In 2015, when an earthquake struck Kathmandu, the Denver Den immediately contributed \$3,000 to the LCIF Nepal disaster relief effort; the Denver Club then held a special fundraiser at a local Nepalese eatery. Through the generosity of the Nepali owner and the Lions and guests, the Club sent an additional \$3,600 to the Lions of Kathmandu Gliese.

Club Twinning is an excellent opportunity for Lions to extend their service mission beyond national borders. Twinned clubs are encouraged to serve together. Technology enables clubs to remain in contact in nearly any part of the world.



Denver Lions who served in World War II were honored with a framed star on May 21, 1946.



Lions Dr. Robert Collett, Midori Morry, Saeko Imai, and Lion David Dunklee. Midori Morry’s father Fumio Morry of Nagoya East Lions Club proposed a Sister club arrangement with Denver after his daughter’s participation in the Lions International Youth Exchange program in Denver in 1970.



CHAPTER 5

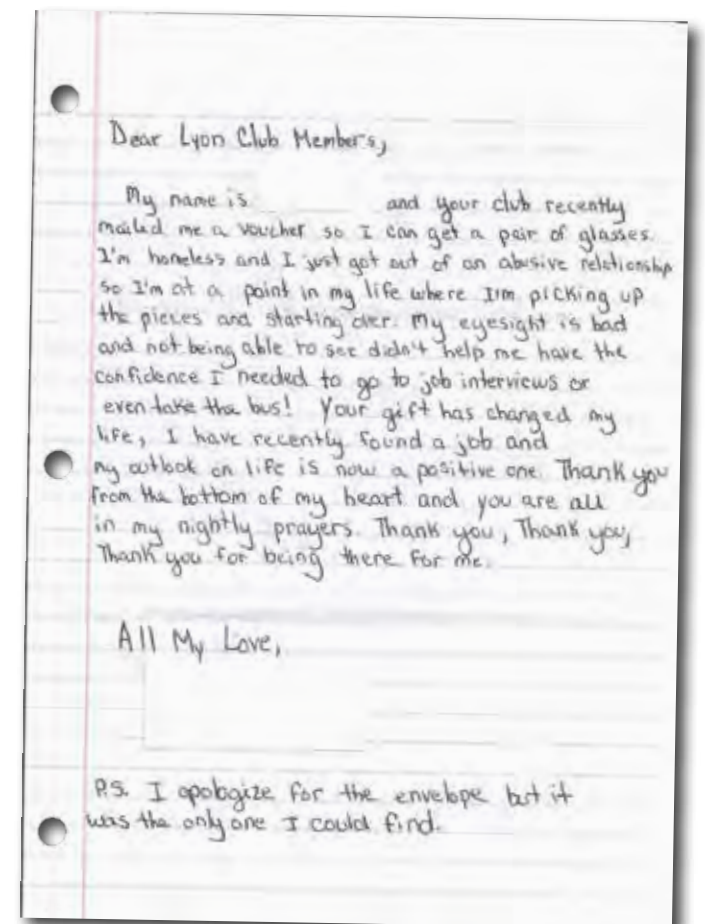
THE SECOND CENTURY

Celebrating the milestone of one hundred years of Lionism is a time for reflection. Our emblem depicts a lion facing the past with pride and a lion facing the future with confidence. Now that we have reviewed the past, let us face the next hundred years with all the confidence shown in our past. This is not the end, but rather the continuation of a great tradition.

Helen Keller said that “a gift without the care and concern is an empty one.” Lions care—that is why the hours that are volunteered are as important as the checks that are written. Lion volunteers get to experience the happy look on the face of someone whose vision has been corrected, that hug and a whisper of “thank you” from a blind child at the Anchor Center, and the joy of kindergarteners at a KidSight screening. There is that warm feeling in the heart that comes from reading to the children at Rude Park Day Care Center. There is satisfaction that comes from sending funds to earthquake victims in Nepal or Ecuador, or in providing funds for flood relief right here in Colorado. Those feelings and that satisfaction are all the motivation and gratitude needed to launch the Lions of the Denver Den into a second century of service.

Poverty rates in much of the world have declined significantly during the last two and a half decades. Statistics show that one billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty since 1990. The average incomes of hundreds of millions of people have more than doubled, six million fewer children die every year from disease, average life expectancy has increased by six years, war and violence have declined significantly, tens of millions more girls are in school, the share of people living in chronic hunger has been cut nearly in half, and millions more people have access to clean water. Democracy—often fragile and imperfect—has become the norm rather than the exception in countries around the world.

Progress has been remarkable, and Lions clubs around the world have contributed to this vast improvement in the lives of people. To be sure, the surge of progress has not reached everyone. There is still work to be done. However, the progress made provides evidence that the efforts of many organizations have had positive impacts on improving the lives of people.



Typical note of appreciation from the people we serve (name blocked for privacy), 2016



Poverty rates in the United States have a somewhat less positive trajectory. The US poverty rate experienced a steady decline from nearly 25 percent in the 1950s to a low of 11 percent in 1974. Since then, the rate has fluctuated between 11 and 15 percent. It has persisted at around 15 percent since the recession of 2008. Statistics for the city and county of Denver show that 24 percent of residents are living below the poverty level, compared to 17 percent in the state of Colorado.

LOOKING FORWARD

Reflecting on the first century of service can provide some direction and insight for the second century. An examination of some signature community service projects may demonstrate a path for the second century.

Since the challenge issued by Helen Keller in 1925, Lions have focused on sight-related problems. Studies conducted by Research to Prevent Blindness, a respected private foundation in New York, tell an alarming story of the gravity of eye diseases in the United States today:

- Every seven minutes, someone in America will become blind or visually impaired.
- Almost all blindness in the United States is the result of common eye diseases. Less than 4 percent is the result of injury.
- There are 3.4 million Americans over the age of forty who are blind or visually impaired.
- Eighty million people in the United States suffer from potentially blinding eye diseases.
- Fourteen million Americans, one of every twenty-one of us, have vision problems that cannot be corrected with glasses.
- 6.4 million new cases of eye diseases occur each year in our country.
- The cost of eye health care and income loss due to visual impairment is in excess of \$100 billion annually.

The problems of eye diseases and blindness are not going away. Eye diseases affect people of all ages and economic circumstances, but the elderly are especially hard hit with age-related diseases. With the growth of the over-sixty population (forecasted to double by 2020), eye problems associated with aging will continue to swell.

KIDSIGHT

The Denver Den and Colorado Lions have been leaders in the KidSight program. The statewide program that began in 1998 screened forty-eight thousand children in 2015–16. This represents only about 20 percent of the population of children that should be screened in Colorado. Since about one in five school-aged children has a vision problem that can interfere with learning, Lions need to do more. Since the main bottleneck is the number of volunteer screeners, perhaps enlisting the help of other organizations or working with the very same school systems to encourage high school students to volunteer would increase the number of screeners. In addition, there should be more attention given to the follow-up of those children who are referred by the screening, especially those from low-income families. Perhaps Lions of Colorado need to look for sources of finance to establish a follow-up program.

Only 32 percent of Colorado Lions clubs participate in KidSight. Just getting every club to screen their local elementary schools could greatly increase the percentage of children reached. The Denver Den and Lions of Colorado need to continue to support the development of KidSight USA, making the program national. Working together, we can identify vision problems, facilitate treatment, provide better learning outcomes for children, and reduce the costs of undetected vision problems for families. Every child deserves to learn and see the world clearly.

The Denver Den screens children in the Denver and Mapleton Public Schools and other Denver private early learning centers. In the 2015–16 Club year, members screened 3,359 children in forty-nine schools and early learning centers. Of the ninety-three Denver Public Elementary Schools (with an enrollment of 14,724 students), the Denver Den and other area Lions clubs screened in sixty-six schools and reached 27 percent of the children. The two limiting factors to screening more children are the lack of parental consent and the availability of volunteer screeners. The Club is working to better promote to parents the need for KidSight screening. Hard as it may be to accept, the aging membership of the Denver Den is impeding the ability of the Club to reach more Denver Public Schools kindergarten and first-grade children.

THE FOUR PILLARS

The confluence of a number of factors has increased the demand for services experienced by the Denver Den over the last few years. There has been a reduction in the number of Lions clubs and the number of Lions in the Denver metro area that have the capacity to provide direct assistance for eye exams, eyeglasses, hearing aids, and youth and social services. The population of the Denver metro area has been rapidly increasing—eighteen thousand people moved into



Lion Holly Rutherford, Chatfield Club and Colorado KidSight executive director, after screening two children at the Dragon Boat Festival in 2016.



Glasses for the Masses collection box in 2016. The Denver Den has more than a hundred of these located throughout the Denver metro area.



Station number five for recycled eyeglass distribution at Denver Lions One Day Eye Clinic in 2016.



A group of campers at the Lions Camp, 2014



the area in 2015. The poverty rate in both Denver and the state of Colorado has remained stubbornly high. Finally, the population is aging, which increases the number of people with both eye and hearing problems, and it also increases the number of people with inadequate retirement incomes.

The Denver Club has experienced increasing demand for services, especially in Sight Conservation but also in Hearing Conservation, Youth Services, and Social Services. The Pillar committees have—to the extent that budgetary resources and volunteer hours permit—extended services outside the Denver metro area. The ability of the Club to provide these services is limited by annual donations to the Denver Lions Foundation and the earnings of the endowment fund.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIONS EYE BANK

The future of the Eye Bank is impressive, considering that in Colorado, seven in ten people who get or renew their driver’s license agree to be tissue donors. The motto of the Eye Bank is that a cornea never goes to waste. Even though the shelf life of a cornea is only fourteen days, the Eye Bank is part of a worldwide network for corneal transplants so that when tissue recovery exceeds demand in the Rocky Mountain region, corneas are made available to other programs.

The members of the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) provided 76,431 corneas for transplants in 2014. Since 1961, more than 1.5 million men, women, and children worldwide have had their sight restored through corneal transplantation. The generosity of the American people provides enough corneas to satisfy demand in the United States and allows for the donation of excess (28,000 in 2015) to other countries. It is estimated that ten million individuals are cornea blind worldwide.

Since its inception, the Eye Bank has been housed in a number of locations. With the opening of the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute, it became the home of the Eye Bank. As both the Eye Bank and the Eye Institute grew, the Eye Bank has become fractured in terms of space. Tissue recovery takes place in rented space at Denver Health, tissue preparation takes place in an off-site annex building, and the Eye Institute houses the offices.

Having a single building to house the offices, the tissue preparation, the tissue recovery, and room for growth is only a dream at the time of this writing. As Edgar Allen Poe wrote in his short story “Eleonora,” “Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night.” It is certainly a dream that can be made possible with the continued support of the Denver Lions Club and other Lions of the Rocky Mountain region.



Denver Lions One Day Eye Clinic, (top) testing eyes with auto-refractor and (bottom) distributing recycled eyeglasses.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIONS EYE INSTITUTE AND THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIONS EYE INSTITUTE FOUNDATION

An argument could easily be made that the Eye Institute operated by the University of Colorado is a mature organization that no longer needs the support of the Lions of the region. The Eye Institute is involved in patient care, training eye-care professionals, and research. The university provides resources for both the training and research aspects of the Eye Institute. Patients, through insurance and direct payments, also provide revenue to the Eye Institute.

The Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute Foundation strives to ensure that this care is equally available to all, including those who cannot afford care. The Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute serves as a testimonial to the dedication and determination of Lions of Colorado and Wyoming. But the Eye Institute is just the beginning. Lions of vision and leadership continue to dream dreams. The RMLEI Foundation will remain an integral part of the continuing fight against world blindness. A Patient Assistance Program introduced in 2005 provides assistance to those without the financial means to address vision-threatening problems. Whether these individuals require second opinions or specialized care available at the Eye Institute, the Patient Assistance Program provides financial assistance toward medical treatment, transportation, lodging, and meals. The RMLEI Foundation receives referrals from Rocky Mountain Lions clubs. Individual clubs help prospective recipients complete an application detailing their vision-health background, first-opinion information from other ophthalmologists, and a financial needs assessment.

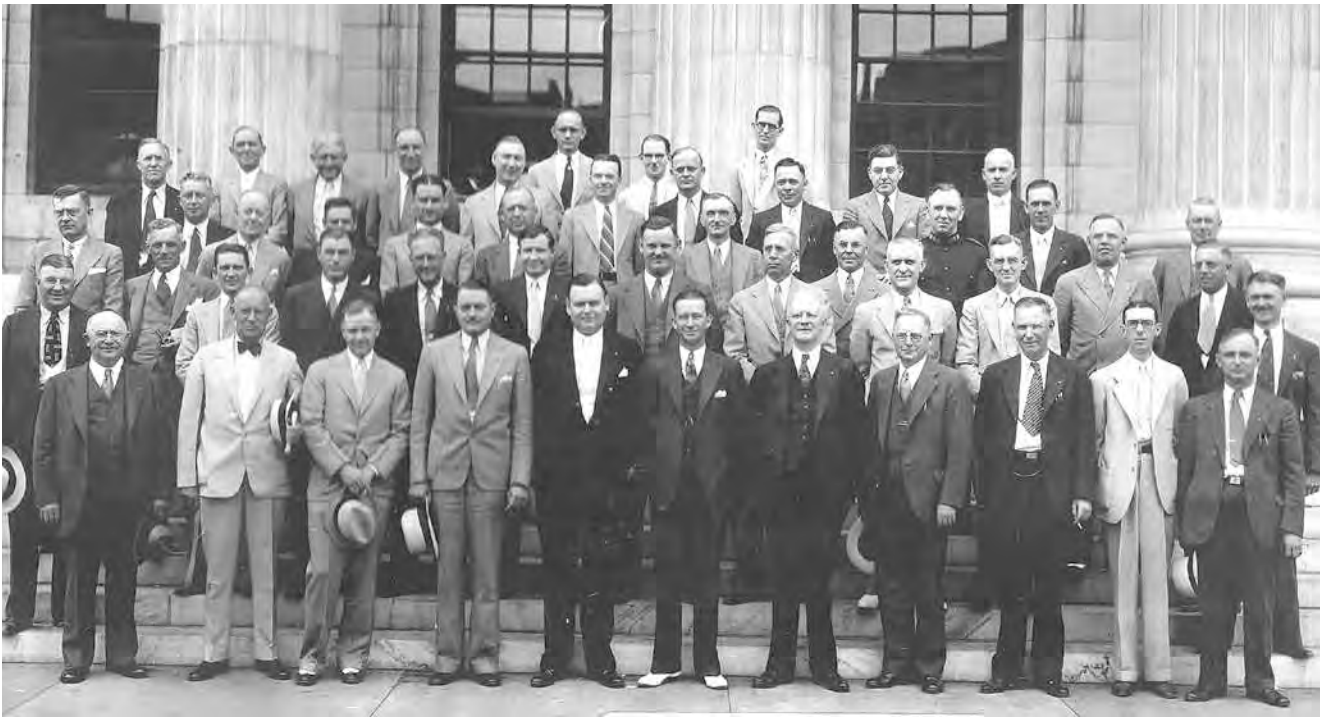


Exam room at the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute furnished by the Denver Lions Club and the Kenneth King Foundation, 2015

In keeping with a commitment of the conscientious stewardship of funds (and seeking to reduce the amount of assistance needed), the RMLEI Foundation has secured commitments from the Department of Ophthalmology, University Physicians, Inc., the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, and the Children’s Hospital to provide significant discounts on services for patients referred by a Lions club. Given the aging population and the poverty rates in both Denver and the state of Colorado, the Patient Assistance Program will continue to experience increased numbers of applications.

THE SECOND CENTURY CHALLENGE

The capacity of Lions to meet the needs of the second century is directly related to membership. More members allow Lions to provide more volunteer time for activities such as a KidSight screening, 9Health Fairs, International Eye Missions, and support to the Four Pillars. Membership directly impacts the ability of Lions to raise funds in support of the activities described above. While membership in Lions clubs has been expanding on a global basis, it has been withering in the United States and in Colorado. In the last ten years, the number of Lions in Colorado has declined from 4,577 in 166 clubs to 3,286 in 133 clubs, representing a 39 percent decrease in membership. During this same time period, the Denver metro area (Lions District 6C) has experienced a reduction in membership from 1,026 in thirty-eight clubs to 714 members in thirty clubs, equivalent to a 44 percent decrease. The Denver Den experienced a reduction from 164 members in 2006 to 125 in 2016, or a 30 percent drop. While total numbers are declining, the membership is also aging. In the Denver Den, the average age of a member is sixty-five years, with the youngest being twenty-five and the oldest being ninety-six.



The Club inducted fifty new members in 1933 in the midst of the Great Depression; this represents a challenge to the Club in 2017.

Businessmen who worked in downtown Denver created the Denver Den. A lot has changed in US society since then, much of it in the last forty years. Membership in Lions clubs in the United States peaked around 1959, then plateaued until about 1976 when it began to decline. Other service clubs and civic organizations have experienced a similar trajectory in membership. The major factors that have contributed to this decline include: the pressures of time, especially with the rise of two-career families; urban sprawl; electronic entertainment; and generational change—the slow, steady, and ineluctable shift away from civic engagement by less-involved children and grandchildren. Electronic entertainment (television and the Internet) significantly impact the generational-change factor, undoubtedly the most significant of the societal-change issues.

These changes in society have resulted in the disengagement of Americans from civic activity. Statistics show that Americans sign fewer petitions, that they don’t know their neighbors as well as in the past, and that they spend less time with friends and families. Between 1975 and 1999, Americans had 43 percent fewer family dinners and 59 percent fewer friends that drop by to visit. At the same time, Lions clubs are still seen as a way for civic-minded people to help the less fortunate. The United States is among the most generous countries in the world, ranking sixth on the Charities Aid Foundation World Giving Index (after Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Canada, and Switzerland, with only two percentage points separating the top six countries). According to the latest survey by the Charities Aid Foundation, 60 percent of Americans contribute money, and 39 percent volunteer time to charities.



Signs along the road like this one in 1940 are being replaced by electronic media.

The great challenge for the second century of the Denver Lions Club is to determine both how to create and how to channel that desire to serve among the younger generations of our country. The desire to serve is complex and different from person to person. Many young people today have little experience with adversity, while many people within the generations that run Lions clubs endured hardships during the Great Depression and during World War II. Having experienced adversity often creates the desire to come to the aid of someone less fortunate. It is not that young people today are not interested in community service, it is finding a way to channel that desire to those activities that are of interest to our Club. One only has to observe the giving through texting that occurs after a major natural disaster to realize that young people are interested in helping others. Most high schools and colleges require students to perform community service.

STRATEGIES FOR DOING MORE

Much has been written about the millennial generation and their values. Issues frequently cited for not joining a Lions club include not wanting to make a commitment, not wanting to attend weekly meetings, and the monetary cost involved. Some young people cite the fact that clubs are run by the old-fashioned generation and that there is no room for new blood and new ideas. One example is the emphasis on “perfect” attendance, which creates pressure for those who cannot make many of the meetings. Actually, a better measure of a member’s commitment might be “meaningful participation.” Some of these same criticisms have been leveled against our own District and State Conventions. With the decline in membership, the four Colorado districts no longer meet the threshold of membership required by the International Association. As a result, Colorado cannot qualify to run a member for an International Association office, yet the state Lion leaders have been reluctant to merge districts. Change is difficult.

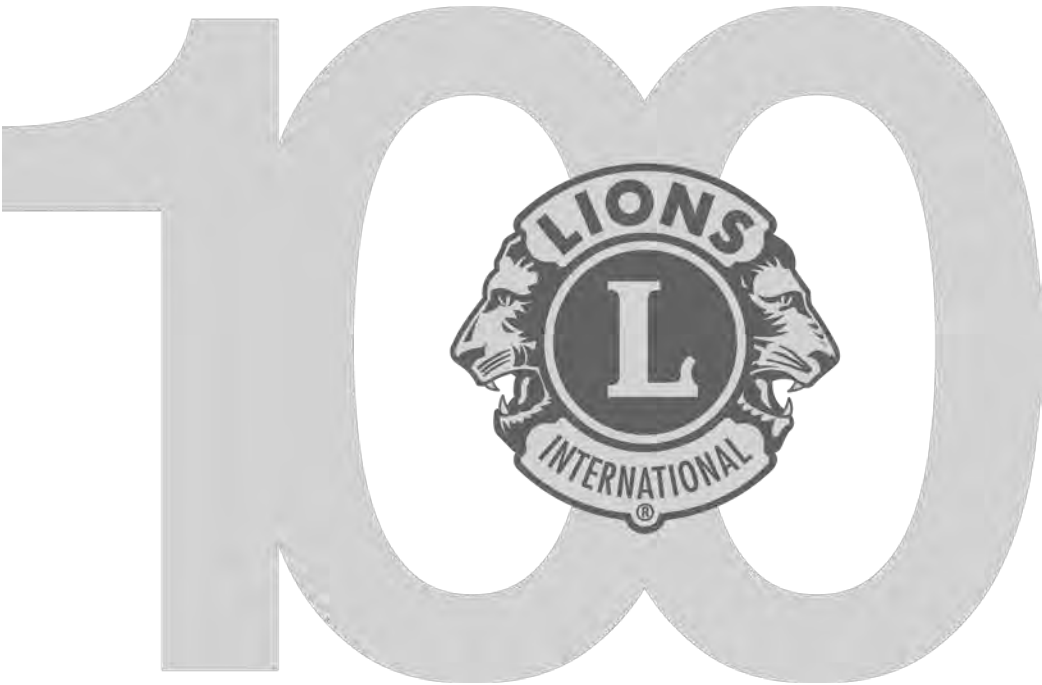
One alternative may be to sponsor additional clubs located in areas of town that are more convenient for the members. These can be branch clubs and may have a special focus. An example might be a club on the University of Colorado (Fitzsimons) medical campus, where the Denver Club already has a number of members who rarely attend weekly luncheons because of the distance to downtown and the demands of their jobs. The key to the success of such a strategy is the commitment of a core number of Denver Lions. Branch and new clubs need the engagement of the sponsoring club if they are to become successful.

To attract younger members, there may be no better way than through the Leo club program. The Denver Lions could use its good offices with the Denver Public School administration that result from KidSight to initiate Leo clubs in several schools. The Denver Club sponsored a Leo club at Littleton High School in 2016. There are many more high schools and universities in the Denver metro area that would be ripe for the establishment of Leo clubs. With a number of Leo clubs in the metro area, competitions could be held in public speaking, best service project, most members, and more. The key is to have the commitment of the core membership of the Denver Club. There needs to be engagement

between the Denver Lions and the sponsored Leo clubs. If the Denver Den decides to make this a priority, much could be accomplished. Engagement with a Leo club could be just the role some of the younger members of the Denver Den are seeking.

It all started one hundred years ago when Dr. Charles C. Reid invited a small group of Denver businessmen to a meeting. Later on, Melvin Jones invited the Denver Lions and twenty-two other clubs to a meeting in Dallas where the International Association was formed. It is only through the associated efforts that Lions have been able to accomplish what is now being celebrated. The amount of money and the number of volunteer hours given in the last one hundred years has never been calculated, but the results for the lives of the people impacted are incalculable.

Over the last one hundred years, Lions have overcome many obstacles and found ways to serve their communities. Change is not a Lions hallmark, but Lions do find a way. As is stated on the centennial logo, “Where there’s a Need there’s a Lion.” There are definitely needs, and they need to be faced with confidence.



Centennial Logo, 2015



APPENDIX A

LEGACY BOOK SPONSORS

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS:

Robert Backus	John and Lynn Fritschel	Terry Lutts
Emerson Bails	Harold and Martha Hein	Russ and Dottie Lynn
Dr. J. Bronwyn Bateman	Joe and Pam Ignat	Jim Nussbaum
Douglas Brown	Steve and Susy Kinsky	Lee E. Schlessman
Fletcher Brown	Steve Krebsbach	Rod Wicklund

CORPORATE AND ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORS:

Companies/Organizations

9Health Fair
Albert TT Cook and Company
Argonaut Wine and Liquor
Assured Benefit Solutions
Bank of Denver
Colorado Railroad Museum
Colorado State Bank and Trust
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP
ISU Insurance Services of Colorado
Kenneth King Foundation
Maggiano's Little Italy
Mental Health Center of Denver
Mission Control Investment Strategies LLC
Molberg Jewelers
Northwest Mutual
O'Brien Cockreil Insurance
Optical Masters
Perry and Company
Pro Active Podiatry
Ready Temporary Services
Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank

Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute
Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute Foundation
Savio House
Taylored Fitness
The Denver Lyric Opera Guild
The Villager Newspaper
Think Like a Genius Foundation
Volunteers of America
Williamson & Associates

Affiliated Denver Den Members

Dianne Pape, David Fickel
Albert T. T. Cook
Ron Vaughn
Steve Kinsky
Dan Kiel
Bill Henderson
Aaron Azari, Bill Martin, John Patterson
Kyler Burgi
William Adams, Dave Adams
Janice Fritsch

Katie Heidman
Denny Holmes
John Molberg
Ned Nagle, Jim Anderson
Charlie Cockreil
Terry Lutts
Charles Anderson
Dr. Eric Steen
James Hannifin
Edmond Jacobs, Robert Austin,
Colton Osterander, Brian Heider
Naresh Mandava, Virginia Eldridge, Michael Taravella
Harold Hein, Sally Hooks
William Hildenbrand, Norma Aguilar-Dave
Erica Taylor
Marie Wheatley
Robert Sweeney
Eric Siler
Michael James
Mark Williamson

APPENDIX B

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE DENVER LIONS CLUB

1. Dr. Charles C. Reid* (Past International President, 1920)	1917-18
2. Albert Sittloh*	1918-19
3. John S. Fabling* (Past International Director, 1920-23)	1919-20
4. Fred D. Stackhouse*	1920-21
5. Irving Keeping*	1921-22
6. Harry V. Kepner*	1922-23
7. John G. Gates*	1923-24
8. Rufus G. Gentry*	1924-25
9. James I. Adams*	1925-26
10. Frank A. Traylor*	1926-27
11. Richard J. Osenbaugh* (Past International President, 1935-36)	1927-28
12. Charles VanPatten*	1928-29
13. Al Threlkeld*	1929-30
14. Freeman H. Talbot*	1930-31
15. Carl E. Best*	1931-32
16. E. M. Thommasson*	1932-33
17. Roger D. Knight*	1933-34
18. C. B. Bartholomew*	1934-35
19. Bert W. Kelley* (Past District Governor, 1937-38)	1935-36
20. Francis J. Knauss*	1936-37
21. J. T. Fitzell*	1937-38
22. C. Roy Muchow*	1938-39
23. L. R. Kendrick*	1939-40
24. Floyd D. Lilyard*	1940-41
25. Allen Redeker*	1941-42
26. Walter H. Simon* (Past District Governor, 1944-45)	1942-43
27. Dr. Harold I. Magoun*	1943-44
28. Rollie D. Bradford*	1944-45
29. Rush O. Harris*	1945-46
30. Ralph B. Hubbard*	1946-47
31. A. D. Lewis*	1947-48
32. Ludwig W. Rettig* (Past District Governor, 1951-52)	1948-49
33. Walter Koch*	1949-50
34. Harry E. Fontius, Jr.*	1950-51
35. Francis Bain*	1951-52
36. Kenneth K. King^ (Past District Governor, 1959-60)	1952-53
37. Milton C. Garwood*	1953-54
38. Harold M. Webster*	1954-55
39. E. Lee Fondren^	1955-56
40. Howard L. Johnson*	1956-57
41. Elmer L. Metcalfe*	1957-58
42. J. W. Bill Day* (Past District Governor, 1967-68)	1958-59
43. Neil F. Roberts^	1959-60
44. Dr. Foster Matchett*	1960-61
45. Graham R. Miller*	1961-62
46. Lloyd King*	1962-63
47. Keppel Brierly*	1963-64



48. Thurston Jenkins*	1964-65
49. Edgar A. Stansfield*	1965-66
50. Coles Hudgins*	1966-67
51. David V. Dunklee*	1967-68
52. Ralph F. Berndt*	1968-69
53. Albert J. Moye*	1969-70
54. Robert E. Best^	1970-71
55. David Brofman*	1971-72
56. Franklin E. Barger^	1972-73
57 Jack K. Haraway*	1973-74
58. James T. Bayer^	1974-75
59. Dr. Charles E. Armstrong*	1975-76
60. Harold D. Torgan*	1976-77
61. Emerson R. Bails	1977-78
62. William W. Webster* (Past District Governor, 1983-84)	1978-79
63. Donald S. Guscott*	1979-80
64. Henry A. Edler*	1980-81
65. Alton W. Moore*	1981-82
66. Harold Kountze, Jr. *	1982-83
67. Gordon W. Johnson^	1983-84
68. James G. Nussbaum	1984-85
69. Lynn E. Hoover^	1985-86
70. Andy C. Van Nostrand^	1986-87
71. Stevens P. Kinney II*	1987-88
72. Robert A. Backus	1988-89
73. Virgil F. W. Dickman*	1989-90
74. Vernon P. Playton^	1990-91
75. Edward T. O'Brien, Jr.^	1991-92
76. William D. Adams	1992-93
77. Michael J. Dux	1993-94
78. Ivar P. Carlson*	1994-95
79. Robert L. Frye	1995-96
80. James H. Anderson	1996-97
81. Paul M. Barbour* (Past District Governor, 2000-01)	1997-98
82. Rodney D. Wicklund	1998-99
83. George H. Custard	1999-00
84. ReBecca V. Dillahunty	2000-01
85. Robert F. Sweeney	2001-02
86. Russell J. Lynn	2002-03
87. Albert T. T. Cook, Jr.	2003-04
88. Douglas G. Brown	2004-05
89. D. Taylor Albrecht, Jr.	2005-06
90. Dianne M. Pape	2006-07
91. John T. Love	2007-08
92. Michael O. James	2008-09
93. Edward F. Nagle II	2009-10
94. Steve Krebsbach	2010-11
95. Flossie O'Leary	2011-12
96. Stephen Kinsky	2012-13
97. Greg Osterloth	2013-14
98. Myrna Ann Adkins	2014-15
99. Terry Lutts	2015-16
100. Fletcher Brown	2016-17

*Deceased
^Moved or Resigned

APPENDIX C

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE DENVER LIONS FOUNDATION

1. Arthur C. Thomas*	1952-56	34. Michael J. Dux	1988-89
2. Everett L. McKanna^	1956-57	35. Dr. Louis M. Orzolek	1989-90
3. Henry L. Neuschaefer^	1957-58	36. Theodore R. Zerwin*	1990-91
4. Edward B. Jones*	1958-59	37. Dean R. Haave	1991-92
5. Col. Timothy A. Pedley, Jr.*	1959-60	38. James M. Desmond^	1992-93
6. Wesley R. Curtis*	1960-61	39. Edward Connolly^	7/1/93-2/28/94
7. Robert C. Wade^	1961-62	James M Desmond^	3/1/94-6/30/94
8. Harold D. Torgan*	1962-63	40. Robert Sidwell*	7/1/94-9/30/94
9. Ludwig W. Rettig*	1963-64	H. Gordon Bevill^	10/1/94-6/30/95
10. John D. Tierney*	1964-65	41. H. Gordon Bevill^	1995-96
11. Judge David Brofman*	1965-66	42. D. Taylor Albrecht, Jr.	1996-97
12. Joseph E. Clarkin*	1966-67	43. M. L. Patino^	1997-98
13. Keppel Brierly*	1967-68	44. Bernard M. Sharp^	1998-99
14. Jack K. Haraway*	1968-69	45. Michael O. James	1999-00
15. Alton W. Moore*	1969-70	46. Gregory W. Osterloth	2000-02
16. George W. Hopper*	1970-71	47. Stephen C. Kinsky	2002-03
17. James T. Bayer^	1971-72	48. John T. Love	2003-04
18. Edward A. Walsh*	1972-73	49. Mary C. Krane*	2004-05
19. Donald D. Hoffman^	1973-74	50. Joseph Ignat	2005-06
20. Wm. Griffith Edwards*	1974-75	51. Jack Alexander^	2006-07
21. Robert L. Mosher*	1975-76	52. David E. Weisberg	2007-08
22. Joseph O. Frattini*	1976-77	53. Carl Unrein^	2008-09
23. Franklin R. Gray^	1977-78	54. Janice K. Fritsch	2009-10
24. Albert J. Moye*	1978-79	55. Eric Jasper	2010-11
25. Billie G. Martin*	1979-80	56. David Adams	2011-12
26. Gordon W. Johnson^	1980-81	57. Taylor Love^	7/1/12-12/31/12
27. Robert P. Colwell*	1981-82	58. Dwight Steen	1/1/13-6/30/14
28. Andy C. Van Nostrand^	1982-83	59. John Molberg	2014-15
29. James O. Blackinton*	1983-84	60. Ron Ludwig	2015-16
30. Robert S. Hix*	1984-85	61. David Lambert	2016-17
32. V Keith Ancell^	1985-86		
32. Dean R. Troyer	1986-87		
33. Albert T. T. Cook, Jr.	1987-88		

*Deceased
^Moved or Resigned

APPENDIX D

MELVIN JONES FELLOWS

(Awarded by the Club)

The Melvin Jones Fellowship recognizes donations of \$1,000 and is the backbone of LCIF, providing 75 percent of the Foundation’s revenue. The Melvin Jones Fellowship is an honor presented to those who have made extraordinary contributions to the community and the Denver Lions Club.

Kenneth K. King*	1988
E. Lee Schlessman	1989
Paul G. Tschetter*	1990
Lloyd J. King*	1991
William W. Webster*	1992
Joseph O. Frattini*	1993
Stevens P. Kinney II*	1993
A. Ray Cushman*	1994
Emerson R. Bails	1995
Francis M. Bain*	1996
Donald G. Fullerton*	1997
Robert F. Sweeney	1998
Henry A. Edler*	1999
Robert L. Frye	2000
Dean R. Troyer	2001
Paul M. Barbour*	2002
Ivar P. Carlson*	2002
Edward A. Walsh*	2003
Russell J. Lynn	2004
Donald C. Neithercut*	2005
Emerson R. Bails	2005
George H. Custard	2006
William S. Hildenbrand	2007
Donald A. Smith	2007
D. Taylor Albrecht, Jr.	2008
William D. Adams	2009
Dean R. Haave	2010
Dianne M. Pape	2011
Edward F. Nagle II	2013
Harold Hein	2014
Terry L. Lutts	2015
Fletcher Brown	2016

*Deceased
^Moved or Resigned

APPENDIX E

LION OF THE YEAR

Lion of the Year is an award that is given by the Denver Lions Club to a member who has performed in an extraordinary way during the year.

William W. Webster* (6C, 1973–74; State, 1991–92)	1973–74
Joseph O. Frattini*	1974–75
Jack K. Haraway*	1975–76
Elbert E. Bidwell*	1976–77
Charles E. Armstrong*	1977–78
Franklin E. Barger*	1978–79
Alton W. Moore*	1979–80
Robert L. Mosher*	1980–81
Paul G. Tschetter*	1981–82
Emerson R. Bails	1982–83
Harold Kountze, Jr.*	1983–84
Albert T. T. Cook, Jr.	1984–85
Frank R. Russell*	1985–86
No Nomination	1986–87
Robert S. Hix*	1987–88
Asa M. Pysher, Jr.^	1988–89
Donald C. Neithercut*	1989–90
Donald G. Fullerton*	1990–91
Stevens P. Kinney II*	1991–92
Emerson R. Bails	1992–93
Russell J. Lynn	1993–94
George H. Custard	1994–95
Richard S. Shaffer*	1995–96
Henry A. Edler*	1996–97
James D. Pilon^	1997–98
Danielle D. Osterloth	1998–99
Edward F. Nagle II	1998–99
Theodore A. Greenfield*	1999–00
Harold D. Hein	2000–01
Andrew McKean^	2001–02
Kathy McKean*	2001–02
Joseph A. Beaghtler	2002–03
Dianne M. Pape	2003–04
James G. Nussbaum	2003–04
Nancy A. Snyder	2004–05
David D. Lambert	2005–06
George C. Gibbins	2006–07
Terry L. Lutts	2007–08
Lawrence R. Weygand	2008–09
Fletcher Brown	2009–10
Betty Gail McKenzie	2010–11
James Hannifin	2011–12
Lee Bengston^	2012–13
Dwight Steen	2013–14
Fletcher Brown	2014–15
John Fritchel	2014–15
William Martin	2015–16

*Deceased
^Moved or Resigned

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Denver Lions website: www.denverlions.org

Roper Center, Cornell University website: <http://ropercenter.cornell.edu>

The Saguaro Seminar Civic Engagement in America, The Kennedy School, Harvard University website: <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/saguaro>

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Archives of the Denver Lions Club and the Denver Lions Foundation:

Includes many Club history update reports, annual reports of presidents, annual reports of committees, newspaper clippings, board meeting minutes, Club newsletters from 1923 to the present, eighteen scrapbooks, and various books and publications.

INDEX

1920 Convention,	H
1930 Convention,	Hearing Conservation,
1988 Convention,	Hicks, E. A.,
2003 Convention,	J
9Health Fair,	Jones, Melvin,
A	K
admission of women,	Keller, Hellen,
B	Kenneth Kendal King Foundation,
Bateman, J. Bronwyn,	KidSight,
Bateman,	King, Kenneth,
Blink, Maurice,	L
C	Leo club,
charter,	Leo Program,
Code of Ethics,	Lioness clubs,
Colorado Industries for the Blind,	Lions Clubs International Association, Lions
Colorado Lions Camp,	Clubs International Foundation,
corneas,	LCIF,
D	M
Denver Lions Foundation,	Milk Fund,
Denver Santa Claus Shop Inc,	Mission statement,
E	motto,
Eastern Europe,	O
Ecuador,	origin of the Lions,
Quito,	Business Circle of Chicago,
Eisenhower Chapel,	Osenbaugh, Richard J.,
Eisenhower, Dwight D.,	P
Emblem,	playground,
F	poverty,
Fitzsimons Army Hospital,	Purpose,
Ford, Henry,	R
G	Reid, Dr. Charles C.,
Glasses for the Masses,	Roarings,
Glee Club,	Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank, Rocky
Great Depression,	Mountain Lions Eye Institute,
	Rude Park Day Care Center,

S

Salvation Army,
Savio House,
Schlessman, Lee,
Schwartz, Joseph,
service clubs,
Sight Conservation,
slogan,
Social Services,
Sullivan-Macy, Anne,

T

tail twisting,
Twinning,

U

United Nations,
University of Colorado,

V

Vision statement,

W

We Serve,
White Cane,
Women's Auxiliary,
World War I,
World War II,

Y

YMCA Boys Cabin,
Youth Services,



ABOUT THE COVER

The cover photo on the right is of the Albany Hotel, site of the Denver Lions Club offices and many of the Club luncheon meetings from the 1920s to the 1970s, when it was razed. This photo was provided courtesy of the Denver Public Library from its Digital Image Collection. The Albany Hotel was located on the corner of Stout and Seventeenth Streets. It was opened in 1885 and named for hotelier W. H. Cox's hometown of Albany, New York. The architect, E. P. Brink, described the plan as a combination of an American hotel with a system of palatial French flats. It was decorated in the elegant style of the day, with Persian carpets on the floors and bronze peacock screens over the fireplaces.

The Albany Hotel epitomizes a significant period of the Denver Lions Club's history, and so it is an appropriate cover for this legacy book. The remainder of the cover is given over to a current photo of the Denver metropolitan area that was taken from a drone by Denver Lion Sam McKenzie. Denver ranked number one in "best places to live" by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2016. In 2015, *Forbes* ranked Denver number one in "best places for business and careers," and in the same year, *Area Development* ranked Denver first "among big cities in economic and job growth." These attributes have made Denver one of the ten fastest-growing cities in the nation according to *Forbes* in 2015. While these accolades are appreciated, rapid growth does not come without the social problems facing the great cities of today. These social ills are the trials that face the Denver Lions in its second century. The Lions emblem depicted to the left shows the profile of a lion facing the past with pride and a lion facing the future with confidence. With the help of the greater Denver community, the Lions will meet the challenges of our communities with the confidence portrayed by the profiles of the lions on our emblem.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dwight Steen grew up on an Ohio dairy farm; agriculture is in his blood. After earning a degree in agricultural economics from The Ohio State University, he served with the Peace Corps in Bolivia from 1967 to 1969. The Peace Corps experience put him on a career path in international agricultural development that lasted forty years. After graduate school, he worked for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for twenty-five years, and since then as a consultant in agricultural development. His work for USAID was focused on Latin America, with one stint in Washington, DC, where he was the senior agriculturalist for the Latin America Bureau. Consulting assignments have taken him to the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Service is in his blood, too. Dwight began his service as a Lion in 2000 when he joined the Arlington Host Lions Club in Arlington, Virginia. There, he served as the Club secretary for three years. He was active in fund-raising projects, selling Florida citrus fruits in frigid December-to-March weather. He regularly processed recycled eyeglasses to be used on Lions mission projects. Dwight also led two Children's Eye Missions to Honduras, where the teams worked in collaboration with five Honduran Lions Clubs. He transferred his membership to the Denver Den in 2007 when he moved to the area to be near his children and grandchildren. He continues to live the motto, "We Serve," through his work with the boards of directors of the Denver Lions Foundation and the Denver Den.