

BEMIDJI LIONS NEWS FOR 2011

January 2011

Midwinter Convention in Thunder Bay, Ontario Four Lions Couples went to the 5M-10 Midwinter Convention at Thunder Bay, Ontario. Lion President Trey Bowman and spouse Annie led the Bemidji Lions delegation to Thunder Bay for the annual 5M-10 midwinter convention on January 28-29-30. Other Lions couples representing Bemidji Lions Clubs were: Lions Joe and Lillian Love, Lions Mel and Mary Milender, and Lion Zone Chairperson Wayne and Lenay Tieman. The round trip was 720 miles. Lions District 5M-10 has 49 clubs and 1250 Lions. Bemidji Lions is the largest club in district with 110 members. Duluth is next with 68 members. Lions Club International is the world's largest service club organization. We have 1.35 million members in more than 45,000 clubs worldwide. Lions are everywhere. We're active men and women in more than 206 countries and geographic areas.

Lions have a dynamic history. Founded in 1917, we are best known for fighting blindness--it's part of our history as well as our work today. But we also volunteer for many different kinds of community projects--including caring for the environment, feeding the hungry and aiding seniors and the disabled. Our motto is "We Serve." Lions are part of a global service network, doing whatever is necessary to help our local communities. Our District Governor for 2010-11 is Lion Val Martindale of Ft. Frances, ON.

Next year's District Governor is Peggy Michels of Thunder Bay ON. The Bemidji Lions were successful in their bid for the 2014 5 M-10 midwinter convention. The Bemidji Lions will be the host club and Lions Clubs in Zone 1--First City in Bemidji, Big Falls, Blackduck, and Littlefork will provide added help and support. Bemidji has world class facilities to host this event. Next year's midwinter will be in Grand Rapids, MN. The 2013 convention will be in Virginia, MN. The Parade of Green, announced on Sunday morning, collected \$69,650.00 to be distributed to various Lions charities. The Bemidji Lions gave their contributions to the following Lions charities: Diabetes Lions International; Hearing and Service Dogs, LCIF and Melvin Jones; Lions Eye Bank; Lions Hearing Foundation; Lions Leader Dog; and Project New Hope. Our Lions International guest was International Director Gary D'Orazio of Eagle, Idaho. There were 125 Lions and their guests at the Thunder Bay convention.

All of us returned to our homes and communities motivated to serve. Happy New Year! A start of the new year means different things to each of us. Usually we use the occasion to re-dedicate ourselves to the causes that we believe in. Some of us make New Years resolutions. Some of us even keep them. In Lionism, a new year causes us to reflect and look back on all the wonderful things we have accomplished. The occasion also allows us as Lions to look to the future and strengthen our resolve in our motto "We Serve".

The Bemidji Lions once again "rang the bell" and greeted Christmas shoppers at the Paul Bunyan Mall during the week after Thanksgiving. The Bemidji Lions collected over \$1250.34 during their week. Over 30 Bemidji Lions participated. The total collected by the Salvation Army this year was \$17,775.25.

February 2011

LOGGING DAYS at Buena Vista on Saturday, February 26th, 2011! The Bemidji Lions Club will be serving flapjacks at the annual Logging Days at Buena Vista on Saturday, February 26th. Breakfast starts at 7:00 a.m. All are invited to this annual event, celebrating the rich heritage of lumbering in Beltrami County.

March 2011

Thank You!

Thank you to Suzanne Thomas of Buena Vista Logging Days for being our guest at our regular meeting on March 23rd. The Bemidji Lions once again were on hand to serve pancake and sausage breakfasts at the 28th Annual Logging Days. Suzanne thanked us for our work and rewarded us with a donation to the club.

Also we would like to thank Lions Leroy Hill and Bob Sandbo and to Lion couples Mark and Lanne Paulson and Wayne and Lenay Tieman for answering the phones on Pledge Night at Lakeland TV on Saturday, March 19th. The Bemidji Lions still hold the record for pledges made in a single night with 54 pledges in December 2009. Shows on Saturday night included Lawrence Welk and Red Green.

July 2011

60th Annual Lions Fare on Saturday, July 30th, 2011

The Bemidji Lions Club held their 60th Annual Lions Fare on the Lake Bemidji Waterfront by Paul and Babe, Saturday, July 30th. They served their famous barbequed chicken dinner from 3:30-7:00 p.m.

December 2011

The Lions "Rang the Bell" for the Salvation Army at the Paul Bunyan Mall during the week of November 27th through December 3rd, 2011. Volunteers who ring the bell average about \$20.00 per hour of income for the Salvation Army. Last year volunteers raised \$17,775. The money raised will be used solely in Beltrami County. Thank you for your willingness to volunteer and contribute. This year Lions over \$2200 for them. Thank you Lion Jack for chairing this excellent cause.

Bemidji Lions President Trey Bowman congratulates **Colin Richards, the 2011 BHS Hugh O'Brien Youth Seminar participant.** Each year the Lions sponsor a sophomore student to attend the seminar to gain leadership skills. Candidates are nominated by their teachers based on his demonstrated or potential leadership ability. Students are informed of their nomination. Those interested in applying will write an essay describing the most rewarding and challenging aspect of being a leader in school and community. A



Left to right: Travis Zachman, BHS Counselor, Colin Richards and Bemidji Lions President Trey Bowman.

committee of faculty, Lions members and students select one HOBY ambassador and one alternate. During the past 8 years the Bemidji Lions have enabled BHS HOBY ambassadors to attend both the national and state leadership seminars.

The **Bemidji Lions had their Christmas party on Wednesday, December 14th** at the Eagles clubrooms. Their invited guests will be the Bemidji High School Choirs. The concert has been a tradition for the Lions at Christmas. The Lions presented a gift of \$500 to the BHS music department during the party.

Gifts to Local Organizations

Holiday Gifts for Kids and Concessions at the Beaver Hockey Games Raised Funds

Individual Lions donations to **Holiday Gifts for Kids this year was \$725.00**. Thank you Lion Ron for chairing this excellent cause. Lions also volunteered to work concessions at the Sanford Center during Beaver Hockey games, earning \$395.00 in commission and tips. Thank you to all who helped with these events.

Thank you to the **Bemidji Lions for their donation of \$1500 to the Bemidji State University Football** program during **Lions Vision Awareness Week October 9th to the 15th**. Honorary captain for the game was Lion Jim Gorman, a member of the Blackduck Lions and a member on the Minnesota Eye Bank Board of Directors.

Upcoming in 2012

Lions District 5M-10 Midwinter Convention

The Lions District 5M-10 Midwinter Convention will be held on February 3rd-5th at the Sawmill Inn at Grand Rapids, MN. Six Lions couples from the Bemidji Lions Club will be in attendance. District 5M-10 has 48 clubs in Northeastern Minnesota and Northwest Ontario. International Director Dave Hajny from the Great State of Montana. Lions will be able to ask him any question you have about Lionism at the Saturday morning breakfast, or listen when he addresses the Governor's banquet on Saturday evening, or by simply walking up to him and saying "hello" in good old 5M-10 fashion.

You will also get to meet Lion Bunny Tabbatt and her Leader Dog Bentley. Lion Bunny will be the featured speaker at the Sunday brunch and her topic will be Leader Dogs for the Blind. A speaker from Can Do Canines will be featured at the Saturday lunch.

The Bemidji Lions will bring checks for \$3200 for Lions International programs. This will be done at the Sunday brunch "Parade of Green". The Bemidji Lions donate to the following: Diabetes, Lions Leader Dog, Lions Can-Do Canines, LCIF & Melvin Jones, Lions Eye Bank, Lions Hearing Foundation, and Project New Hope. We'll have a good time.

Buena Vista Logging Days Pancake Meal

The Bemidji Lions Club will be providing the pancake meal for Buena Vista Logging Days on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 8 am to 2 pm in the Blacksmith Shop/Cook Shack.

61st Annual Bemidji Lions Fare Chicken BBQ

The 61st Annual Bemidji Lions Fare Chicken BBQ will be held on Saturday, July 28, 2012, near Paul and Babe. More details will be available as planning proceeds. Keep watching!