



Seal Beach Host Lions Club The Growl

Seal Beach, California

Volume 66 Number 4

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The President's Message:

"Hello me Lords and Ladies...",

This was the greeting chanted at the recent Seal Beach Chamber Sandcastle Festival. Thanks to Lions Geri, Mike, Kim and special thanks to Lion Dewey for enduring the heat of the sun with me as we entertained the masses in very hot Medieval costumes provided by Bill Howes and Sony pictures.

As a service to the Northern Ensenada club visitation our club provided the dealers for the blackjack games. Lions Bill Howes and his wife Jacqui, Lion Dave Hubbard, Mary Newton and the only dealer to be run out of town --yours truly-- dealt blackjack and fun to all. Lion Gail Hubbard and Diane Dooley tried their luck on the other side of the table, too. Lion Ellen Lieberr tempted our taste buds with her culinary delights. The Ensenada Lions thanked and welcomed us to join them for their hospitality in October. If you haven't already signed up for the trip down south please do so.

Several members have attended our recent Region meetings at Orange and Saddleback. Thanks to Lions Dave Hubbard, Herb Groom, Scot Mattox, Mark Newton, Chris Langlais, Geri Eckner, Dino Syrengelas and our biggest supporter Lion Ellen.

Also attending the Huntington Beach Oktoberfest were Lions Dave Hubbard, Dewey Linehan, Mike McFadden, Eric Reese, Mark and Inger Newton, Diane and George Dooley, Dino S. and Eddie and Mary. Thanks to all who attended for this counted as a visitation towards Club of the Year.

Finally, thanks to Chris and Khryste for coordinating the River Bed Cleanup on the 27th of Sept. and to all the Lions and Leos who helped them.

Final Words: "Don't Worry Be Happy!"
The Prez

Meeting schedule: First and third Wednesdays of the month. Meetings begin at 7pm sharp and are held at 'The Lone Star Steakhouse', 6575 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach, CA

E-mail: President@SealBeachLions.com - Secretary@SealBeachLions.com - Treasurer@SealBeachLions.com

More information & updates at - <http://SealBeachLions.com/>



The Secretary's Message:

This edition of "The Growl" is special as a section is designated to those who participated in the Lions 'Youth Exchange Program'. Many thanks for the submitted articles. First, to Ashleigh for making the trek to Sweden and grasping an opportunity of a lifetime, then sharing bits of it with us. And to Allyn, David and Barbara for sharing pieces of their heartfelt experiences with those they've brought into their homes.

Reading their accounts had me reminiscing the families that took me in, sharing their lives and the many individuals encountered in a foreign land some twenty years ago.

In 1981, as a senior at Northeastern University (Boston, Massachusetts) I had the privilege of journeying to Nottingham, England as an exchange student. During the nine-month sojourn I attended Law & Legal Studies classes the first three months and participated as a CSV (Community Service Volunteer) the remaining six.

As a CSV I held two positions. The first, a full-time position, was volunteering at the Canal Street Night Shelter. This facility maintained 23 beds for men, and 4 for women. Each evening the doors would open at 5pm. Lining the entrance would be 40 to 50 souls waiting for a hot meal and a place to slumber. Unfortunately, some would have to be turned away for the evening. On blustery winter evenings arrangements would be made, thus making makeshift beds on the floor of the dining hall.

By 7am breakfast would be served and the residents would need to depart by 8:30am. They could not stay in the shelter during the day. Instead, it was back to the streets or to the local Salvation Army to watch television, play cards or other games.

On the days not working two nights in a row, I would venture down to the Nottingham Probation Services "Activities Hall". There, each day from 9:30am to 6:00pm the doors were open to the youth of the community. Individuals frequenting the Activities Hall ranged in age of 16 to 25 and were either on probation, unemployed or both.

It was an interesting period to be in England. The Thatcher government was enduring a time when youth unemployment rates were hovering 18%-23% in certain areas of the country. For those with only "O" level educations (16 years of age) being on the dole (public assistance) wasn't the way they wanted to start their adulthood.

At the Activities Hall I aided in the cantina, serving drinks and other snacks. On occasion I was allowed to venture from behind the counter to partake in a game of snooker, or outside for a game of football (soccer). Each day brought the opportunity to garner more of the nuances life afforded.

For Ashleigh and Theresa, I look forward to hearing how your leadership skills blossom.

Kid



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Seal Beach, California

Club Calendar:

Wednesday, October 1

• 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Seal Beach Host Lions Gen. & Board meeting.

Friday, October 3, 4 & 5

• Tiller Days

Saturday, October 4 & 5

• White Cane Days

Sunday, October 5

• Annual CHOC/Disneyland Resort Walk

Monday, October 6

• 6:30 pm -8:30 pm : Leo Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 8

• 6:30 pm -10:00 pm : Veteran's Bingo

Friday, October 10, 11 & 12

• Ensenada Visitation

Saturday, October 11

• 10:00 am -5:00 pm : Sail for the Blind

• 6:00 pm -11:00 pm : CASA Auction

Monday, October 13

• COLUMBUS DAY

Wednesday, October 15

• 7:00 pm -9:00 pm : Seal Beach Host Lions Program night

Friday, October 17, 18 & 19

• Silverado Days Visitation

Monday, October 20

• 6:30 pm -8:30 pm : Leo Board meeting.

Friday, October 24

• 7:00 pm -11:30 pm : Harbor Mesa Casino night

Saturday, October 25

• McGaugh Carnival Service Project.

• 5:00 pm -11:30 pm : Lions Chili Cook-off

Sunday, October 26

• Daylight Savings Ends.

Wednesday, October 29

• 6:30 pm -9:30 pm : Korean Club Visitation

Friday, October 31

• Halloween

Diabetes Awareness Month

November is Diabetes Awareness Month.

Mark your calendar! November 22nd is the second Cabinet Meeting for District 4-L4 of the 2003-2004 year.

Directly before the Cabinet Meeting there will be an "Annual Blood Sugar Screening" opportunity, hosted by the 4-L4 PADRE committee. (It is suggested for a truly accurate reading of blood sugar content you not eat anything or drink sugar based products, i.e., coffee with sugar and cream/milk, beforehand.)

For more information regarding the screening you're welcome to contact Lion Lori Mayer directly. Her contact information is, home: 949.458.3710, or via e-mail at LAMcleanup@msn.com



My "**Lion of Distinction**" for September is Lion Dewey Linehan.

Lion Dewey has been a member of the Seal Beach Host Lions since 1980. Having served in virtually every club cabinet position and some at the District level, he still finds time to volunteer for our causes.

Whether it be putting Dewey Dogs on the grill, helping out at the Greek BBQ or just loading and unloading our equipment, you can count on him.

This past month when I asked for volunteers to assist me with the 'Sandcastle Festival' he not only stepped forward but also worked side by side with me all day Saturday until we were sun burnt.

Although sometimes gruff, his heart is always in the right place. I appreciate his talents, skills and dedication to the club.

Thanks and Congratulations!
The Prez



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WHERE IN THE WORLD IS OUR PRESIDENT NOW?

Each month I will attempt to include a picture of a Lions Club sign from a trip of mine, or another club members. Given will be hints to the location. The first Lion to e-mail me at neudool@aol.com with the correct city and state or country will win a special prize.

Here is this months hint:

ghost - water - potato

Good luck!



Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch sutdy at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a total mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

Prttey amzanig huh?



More information & updates at - <http://SealBeachLions.com/>

Veterans Corner:



Military comparisons of the word "sucks"

A Marine stands in the rain with a 15 lb pack and his 5 lb weapon after having marched 20 miles and says, "This sucks".

An Army Ranger stands waist deep in the rain with a 25 lb pack and rifle, after jumping out of a plane and marching 30 miles says, "This sucks just fine, Sir".

A Navy Seal lies in the mud with a 40 lb pack and rifle after crawling through the swamp and hiking 60 miles at a enemy position smiles while biting the head of a snake off, "This sucks isn't there more".

An Air Force pilot flying over the battlefield, the rain pouring down looks down at the soldiers below and says, "Sure sucks down there."

An Air Force officer sits in an easy chair in his air conditioned, carpeted room and says to his friend, "Man...cables out! This sucks!"



The Leo Zone *Leos - In The Spotlight*

As many in District 4-L4 know, the community of Seal Beach has one of the finest Leo Club's around. At last tally, the club consists of 45 "Leaders of Tomorrow".



In this debut article of 'Leos - In The Spotlight' we introduce the three Denny siblings who serve on this year's board -- Adam, Jasa and Eric.

2003-2004 Leo Club President Adam Denny

Adam, 16, is an 11th grader at Los Alamitos High School. As an avid surfer he recently began competing in amateur kite-boarding competitions. His aspirations include attending college in Hawaii to be closer to the professional ranks of kite boarding and one day compete at that level.

Beginning his fourth year as a Leo, this fine young gentleman has measured up to the task of serving his community well. In all, Adam has accumulated --to date-- well over 325 hours of service and counting.

Gathering in the reins of leadership is nothing new to Adam. He has held the post of Director and Secretary of the Club. In 2001 he was recognized with the Leo Spirit Award. And in 2002 he was awarded the Leo of the Year Award.

Adam has brought, or aided in bringing, three to four members into the club. When asked what he would say to another peer about why they should want to join the Seal Beach Leo Club Adam's response was, "It's a fun way for contributing to community service".

2003-2004 Leo Club Vice President Jasa Denny.

Jasa, 15, is a 10th grader at Los Alamitos High School. She participates on the schools water polo and swim team. Her desire is to attend California State University Long Beach and become a teacher.

Starting her third year in the club, Jasa has a high regard for Leoism. Her club hour total hovers in the range of 250 hours. Her total of new club members is five and counting.

Not one to shy away from a leadership role, Jasa has held the post of Director and Club Secretary. When asked what she would say to another peer about why they should want to join the Seal Beach Leo Club Jasa's response was, "It's a great way to meet new people and give back to the community".



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2003-2004 Leo Club Treasurer Eric Denny

Eric, 13, is an 8th grader at Stanford Middle School in Long Beach. His passion is playing soccer.

A Leo starting his third year, Eric has volunteered over 125 hours to community service. At various events, he has appeared as the Lion Mascot and does so whenever asked. In 2002 Eric was honored with the Leo Spirit Award for generating in excess of \$200 for City of Hope donations.

Eric has contributed to the addition of four to five members in the club. When asked what he would say to another peer about why they should want to join the Seal Beach Leo Club Eric's response was, "Serving and cooking food is fun and there is enjoyment in helping the community".

"Lions Youth Exchange Program"

A letter from Ashleigh Mattox...

My first week in Sweden, I stayed with Lars and Christina Bergase. They had a nice house outside of Stockholm. Lars was working while I was there, but Christina had her vacation time. Everyone gets four weeks of vacation over summer. Christina was able to take me to Stockholm several times. We spent most of our time in Old Town. I saw the palace, the building that houses Parliament, and where they give the Nobel Prizes.

The next two weeks, I went to Camp Bellman. The camp was located in a very rural area outside of Stockholm. There were 22 kids there from 14 different countries. There were major cultural differences, but we all got along really well. I've even heard from a couple kids from camp since I've been home. Every day at camp, there were scheduled activities. We went to the Swedish Steel Company (SSAB), Cosmonova (something like IMAX), the City Hall, and we played lots of futbol (soccer). I had a great time at camp.

The final two weeks, I stayed with the Larsson family in Lulea in Northern Sweden. They had three girls--Sophia, 18, Emma, 14, and Hanna, 8. Both parents and the two older girls spoke fluent English. Even though Hanna is only 8, she has already completed her second year of English. It was very easy for me to fit in with their family. The Larssons have a summer house that we went to a couple times. It was right on the Baltic Sea. It wasn't quite like Seal Beach, but it was interesting to experience something new. I had a great time the final two weeks of my trip.

I wish to thank the Seal Beach Host Lion's Club for sending me on the Youth Exchange Program. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will never forget. Thank you so much. Hope to see everyone when I come home from New Orleans.

Ashleigh Mattox, Leo President 2002-2003

More information & updates at - <http://SealBeachLions.com/>



**Lions Youth Exchange Program
Views from a host**

The following individuals have provided accounts to their participation in YEP.

Seal Beach Lion Dave Hubbard, Hosting a YEP student is a great experience. Out of 31 students we've hosted, we have had students from Great Britain, Japan, Australia and Finland. Their families ranged from diplomats, to contractors of skyscrapers, developers, auto dealers, jailers, farmers, pharmacists, superintendent of schools and shopkeepers. Think about it, you could learn about another culture, have a great experience with a foreign student, and maybe have a host family for a visit to another country.

Vice District Governor, Barbara Hayward Thanks for sharing Ashleigh Mattox's report, what a great trip she must have had. As a sponsor hosting two youths from Belgium, I know the connection she will have with the families for a lifetime. Our Belgian daughter, Catherine, is now 29, married and holds a high position as a 'Notarais' - a rather prestigious position in the legal field. I wouldn't trade the time we've had with her for anything. She has been back twice since the original visit, and it's been super.

"My first time as a YEP host Mom"

By Allyn Mattox

When the Seal Beach Host Lions Club selected Ashleigh to participate in the Youth Exchange Program, husband Scot and I were thrilled. We chatted about the experience it would be for her living with other families, exposed to new cultures and a foreign country. We felt confident that she would be in a safe and comfortable environment.

As Ashleigh's departure date neared, we chatted how wonderful it was that a family would open its home to a stranger in the name of Lionism. The more we discussed it, the more we realized the proper thing to do was host a student in our own home while Ashleigh was in Sweden.

Contacting Carl Decker, who was the Lion in charge of Ashleigh's trip, we inquired if additional host families were needed here in California. Carl was excited of our offer and promptly provided profiles for selection of a student compatible with our family.

In a few days a packet arrived in the mail full of profiles of kids from all over Europe. Upon learning some students had already been placed, we selected Theresa an 18-year-old from Germany.

With the decision made and cleared through Carl's office, we e-mailed Theresa telling her we looked forward to her visit and showing her around Southern California.

The date quickly came and on a Saturday afternoon Theresa arrived at LAX. After a stop for a bite to eat we were homeward bound for Theresa to rest up from her trip.

For the next three weeks Theresa enjoyed visiting various places in Southern California with us. From a Venice Beach excursion to San Diego and Sea World to an overnight at Big Bear to a trip to the Kodak Theatre and star gazing in Hollywood to visiting the Ripley 'Believe It Or Not Museum' there was lots of fun things to do. Theresa was especially excited about seeing the home where "The Osbournes" was filmed.

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"My first time as a YEP host Mom" ...con't...

During Theresa's stay there were also organized group activities. Mel Komatsu and Terri Decker, the organizers of the European students visiting California, organized trips to the Orange County Fair, Universal Studios, Disneyland and a California Angels game for international bonding. Theresa really enjoyed meeting kids from all over Europe.

As there was plenty of time to do things, one day I took Theresa to the Block at Orange. It was here she shared with me the contrast in shopping centers. In Germany there are no huge malls like here in America. It really made me realize how grateful it is to be an American with lots of opportunities to have stores overflowing with merchandise.

Near the end of Theresa's stay all the European kids traveled to Mammoth for a week on a trip sponsored by the Lion's Club. At the end of the week, Scot and I drove to Norco to pick Theresa up. The Norco Lions invited everyone that participated in the Youth Exchange Program to stay for dinner and attend their meeting. When it was time for all the kids to split up and go their separate ways, there was lots of hugs, kisses and tears as the group promised each other that they would keep in touch.

On Theresa's last day, we went to South Coast Plaza for last minute gifts for Theresa to take home. It was here Theresa shared another part of her culture while having lunch. She told us that in Europe people don't engage in casual conversation like they do in the U.S. When the waiter came up and asked us, "How is your lunch?" Theresa told us that a waiter would never interrupt a meal to ask a question in Europe.

I hope that Theresa enjoyed her stay here in California. When Ashleigh arrived home she told us all about her wonderful trip to Sweden. We all learned a little more about other people in this world because the Lion's Club provided these two girls with a wonderful experience that I know they will never forget.



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