



We Serve

THE LION ROARS

March 2013

Passing of the Torch

In case you haven't heard, Marie Larson has resigned from her position as newsletter editor. Marie felt she was unable to capture the comings and goings of the Iron River Lion's Club since she was no longer on the board. Her resignation was accepted and Carey Edwards and Linda Hultman volunteered to fill her shoes. Marie has been editor of the newsletter since 1995 and has kept Lion's members, who may not make it to meetings regularly in the know. At the March meeting, she was presented with a "Lion Pride" bag by

President Nan Olson. The bag was donated by Faith Pittsley. Marie is approaching her 20th year anniversary of service with the Lion's Club. She has served the Lions in many positions including secretary, newsletter editor, countless committee chairs and has been an integral part in the success of the annual golf scramble. The newsletter is behind several months...instead of playing catch-up we are moving forward from March. Please see past issues of the minutes located on our website at www.irlions.com.



Above: Marie Larson is presented with a token of appreciation from President Nan Olson for her years in service as newsletter editor. **Below:** A Lion Pride bag will also be used as a district convention gift. Lion Kim Hamilton has volunteered to fill the bag with \$75 worth of local merchandise. Faith will possibly be selling these bags at the District Convention as a fundraiser for the club. Anyone wishing to purchase a bag should contact Faith for details on pricing.



Quorum Issues

If you have ever been part of a club or organization then you are familiar with the term "quorum". A quorum is the minimum number of officers and members of a committee or organization, usually a majority, who must be present for the valid transaction of business. For the Iron River Lion's Club, it's the majority that rules. You would think that with a club our size (84 members), we wouldn't have any issues with getting enough members to attend the monthly meetings needed to conduct business. You'd

probably be surprised to know that around eleven members (including officers) were at the January meeting and maybe double that at the February meeting. Even the director's meetings have been having issues which really makes conducting business difficult. This in most part is due to the wonderful area that we live in...the Northwoods. While it's a beautiful place to live year-round, a good portion of our membership chooses to roost in warmer climates from December to April. (I can't blame them...if I

was retired, I'd have my place in the desert too.) Don't fret! We have a plan. The recommendation to be voted on at the next meeting was this: starting in April, out of town members will be considered "members at large" and not part of the voting membership. This will bring our voting membership down to 44 (or so) members with a quorum of 23 needed. So for all you snowbirds catching rays in the southwest, don't forget your sunscreen, we hope to see you soon and safe travels on your return.

Happy Birthday

March

- Merv Maki
- David Hultman
- Scot Eisenhauer
- Terry Welty
- Jeanne Joseph

April

- Andy Edwards
- Dick Berge

May

- Bill Trautt
- Karen Boggess
- Tess Eisenhauer
- Lona Schmidt
- Tom Boggess
- Lisa Hyde
- Howard Prell
- Ray Kangas
- Reen Modeen
- Ken Watters



Visit our website at
www.irlions.com

Feb=31,507 hits

OFFICERS 2013

President
Nan Olson 715-372-4045

1st Vice President
Andy Edwards 715-372-8471

2nd Vice President
Ken Watters 715-372-5340

Secretary
Linda Hultman 715-372-6062

Treasurer
Carey Edwards 715-372-8471

Blueberry Festival Food For Thought (don't shoot the messenger)



The Blueberry Festival is a well-oiled machine. One of the reasons for that is because planning for the next festival is occurring during and immediately following the previous festival. "What if's" and "how could we" are some of the beginnings of phrases that are heard being voiced by committee chairs and volunteers alike. The big "how could we" question this year is this: **How do we make the festival more profitable?** Many good ideas have been thrown into the pot to stew and this article will share some of them with you. In my opinion, the hottest item this year is the entertainment. Committee members are trying for a fresh look at bringing in a **larger crowd for longer.** Fireworks, new performers and rides are being considered and contracted for the festival.

Some of the what if's are these: **What if** we expanded the craft fair out into the parking lot? **Could we** pay for the port-a-potties and dumpster with the food and craft vendors? **What if** the club had a Blueberry Bungalow and sold blueberry items such as syrup and muffin mixes alongside the blueberries and spritzer? **What if** WE actually sold the blueberry pies ourselves? (How about blueberry bratwurst?) **What if** we purchased a ride(s) that catered to young adults? **What if** we picked up the garbage ourselves? If you thought that any of these questions were controversial and contentious then try some of these on for size: **What if** we raised the price of beer, if not for the whole festival then at least on Saturday night during the concert? **What if** we sold more chicken and sold it

all day? Chicken dinner during dinner time? Novel idea. **What if** we sold single raffle tickets for \$5 a piece? **What if** we lowered the cash prize payout of the raffle? And the scariest of all what if questions; **What if** it rains all weekend long? All of these questions are geared toward making the festival more successful. Of course, some of these questions have been resolved and are in affect and others will take an act from a higher power to invoke and possible blood shed. One thing is for sure, this year's 49th Lion's Club Blueberry Festival will prove to be the most exciting yet.



Donation Approval Criteria

Strengthen the relations between the Iron River Lions Club and the communities WE SERVE.

Sometimes a request comes to the club and we are uncertain if it fits within our goals and mission statement. Do we always have to approve a request? Can we actually say no? One of the tasks that has been put forth to the board is to develop a set of criteria to help the club more easily approve/reject donation requests. Director Bill Trautt volunteered for this duty and has tentatively come up with some core definitions and criteria. He identified priority areas for the club in which donations are focused as well as a protocol to follow from start to finish

through the decision making process. These are some of the steps included in the protocol: an application with contact information, type of donation needed, date needed by, non-profit status, how donation will be used, anticipated impact, etc; a decision by the Club that the selection complies with objectives/goals of the Club; the determination that the donation can be met within the established threshold of the club's budget; a written notification of approval/rejection and an evaluation of efficiency/impact/effectiveness of each donation.

Priority Areas

- Support schools/educational activities
- Environmental services
- Youth Programs
- Activities unique/relevant to our local community
- Individual family requests such as hearing, eyesight, diabetes, hunger and clothing.

Look for the final draft to be presented in the next couple of months.

In the Minutes

Lion Ray Kangas was recognized by the Town of Iron River for 34 years of teaching Hunter Safety Certification and was congratulated by the Club. As stated earlier, the subjects of quorum and donation criteria were discussed and the Club hopes to act next month. Lion Faith Pittsley stated there will be a "Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions" class held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on beginning on April 8th from 3-5:30 pm. She has requested assistance with the purchase of books for this class, which was approved. She is also working on a program that will take place at the Iron River Elementary School. Lion Ray Kangas and others are working on the details for a pancake breakfast at the VFW to take place on May 4th. Stay



both Regular and Blueberry

tuned for details on the Club's 50th Anniversary Celebration to occur sometime this summer. The Club voted to allocate \$1000 from the football pool earnings to entertainment for the 2013 Blueberry Festival. Lion Linda Hultman will be writing thank you notes to all non-members that helped with the football pool. A list of current participants in the Eye Bank program was passed around for members to add or remove their names for transporters. Dispatchers are Lions Ernie Pittsley, Darren Hanson and Dick Berge. If you are interested in adding your name to the list of transporters or need to have your name removed, contact Ernie. The District Convention will be held at Whitecap Mountain in Hurley, WI.

We will be donating a "Lion Pride" bag that will contain \$75 worth of items of local merchandise, put together by Lion Kim Hamilton. The BBF is coming together. Raffle tickets are in. The craft vendor committee has been trying to forge an alliance with the Chamber, but alas it will not happen this year. The craft vendor spots will be \$75 this year with hopes to expand into the parking area. Possible new rides may be spilling out into the parking as well. The parking committee is working on different ideas to park and shuttle people during the festival.



Welcome!! New Members Walk the Walk



President/sponsor Nan Olson guides new member Jan Lee through the VFW. The blindfold simulates how a visually impaired person might feel navigating around obstructions with the aid of a



helper. Aiding the vision and hearing impaired are two of the Club's focuses. Center: Past President Dick Berge inducts Jan Lee and Barb Anich (also sponsored by Nan Olson) into the Iron River



Lion's Club. New members are inducted once per quarter. From left to right: Jan Lee, Barb Anich and Nan Olson. Welcome!

Calendar of Events

April 12-13	District Convention Whitecap Mt. Hurley
April TBA	Adopt A Highway cleanup
May 4	Pancake Breakfast @ VFW
May TBA	Wayside Park cleanup
July 25	Talent Show @ Community Center
July 26	BBF Set up
July 27-28	Blueberry Festival
July 29	BBF Clean up
Sept 7	Golf Scramble

Money Matters

March Treasurer's Report Summary

Checking	\$23,586.78
Savings	\$17,265.10
Total Assets	\$40,851.88

Accounts of Interest

Golf Scholarship	\$11,618.04
Special Projects	\$5,028.21
Contingency	\$3,160.08

Out and About in Oulu

Past newsletter editor, Marie, seemed to share a little of herself in each volume sent out and if I remember right, there used to be a member profile (when she could coax one out of someone), so I'll volunteer for March....Meet Carey Edwards. I was born and raised in Galion, Ohio where both my parents still reside. I have a younger sister (CO) and younger brother (OH). I attended Northland College in Ashland and graduated in 1993 with a BS in Biology and in Chemistry. I worked for the DNR for 12 years before attaining my current job with the USFWS at the Iron River National Fish Hatchery as a fish biologist for almost 5 years now. I travel a lot for my job at the

most inconvenient times of year for both Lions Club and home life. My husband is Andy Edwards and we have two daughters, Grace (13) and Audrey (11). We have been married for over 14 years and live in Oulu in Bill Elonen's old house on Eastview Road. (I think it will become the Edwards' home when everyone who knew Bill passes away.) I have a small farm where I raise Icelandic sheep (grown for wool and meat), a modest laying flock of assorted chickens, ducks, stray guineas and stray cats (they just show up!!!) and hopefully this spring turkeys and geese. The sheep were just shorn last weekend in preparation for spring lambing. I LOVE to garden



and I can nearly everything I grow. I also love to cross country ski and have participated in the Kortelopet (half Birkie) five times. I like to four wheel around, especially with my family and we try to camp whenever possible. We have a pop up. I also like to crochet. My favorite color is green. I am in my second year as treasurer for the Lions Club. I also volunteer as a Girl Scout troop leader (in my spare time).