

HOW LIONS CAN REALLY ROAR

A letter to JUH Lions Club members.

We as Lions spend our time together in various ways. We join weekly to enjoy each others company, have good food, and listen to interesting speakers. They inform us on community activities, governmental programs or projects, or they just entertain us.

But we could do all that whether we are Lions or not.

What sets us apart is our devotion to our cause, that of serving, and more specifically toward our vision programs.

Have you ever hear the phrase “feed the pig.” Well, we feed the Lion.

We have basically two separate arenas or activities: one that feeds our Lion, and the other which empties the Lion. There is no treasure to be found when opening the Lion until treasure has been placed inside.

And where does that treasure go? It goes to purchasing screening devices so area parents might catch their child’s vision problems early, to visual aids so our local students can succeed in school and life, and corrective vision and hearing surgeries to families who could otherwise not afford them. We provide a visually or hearing-impaired student to attend ASU through our scholarship donation. We help feed hungry citizens. We train blind individuals to be independent and self-sufficient. We provide service animals to assist those who cannot see or hear. We build emergency kits to be taken to disaster areas and collect, examine, box up and mail out hundreds of glasses to people who otherwise could not afford them. We assist optometry students to examine and issue these used eyeglasses in third-world countries. We support facilities that are available to all children regardless of their affliction. We fund eye and tissue banks that assist people everywhere with life-saving or life-enhancing transplants. We help the Salvation Army to help those in need.

We support the world-wide effort of Lions Clubs International Foundation for disaster relief, the building of hospitals, creation of wells and systems for clean water, and partnering with drug companies to provide medication to alleviate vision-stealing conditions around the world.

What a great deal of help and comfort we give to people in our area and around the world. How is all this possible? In church they call it giving of time, talents and treasure.

Without standing in front of Wal-Mart with our White Cane, without planning and working our annual car show, without adorning Jonesboro with hundreds of flags on holidays, or knocking on local businesses' doors to help in our Lions TV Auction, without selling nuts to everyone we know, and to many people we don't know, none of what we do would be possible. The Lion's roar would be nothing more than the soft mewling of a kitten.

So, now, with one of the busiest times of the year upon us, here's our plea: Whether you are a regular attender, a new or transferred member, or a Monarch who is always present, we need your help and we need it now. There are opportunities for sight screenings (anyone can help); and other "fillers": Flags on October 9 Columbus Day, letters and giving opportunities to be presented to our Lions TV Auction partners, now through November 11. Nut sales will begin very soon, and the car show looms large just after the TV Auction. This is always our great challenge, but we must do this to refill the Lion. **WE NEED EVERY LION!**

Thanks for being true to this cause and this CLUB, for every time you volunteer and support. Every time you help fill the Lion with hard work and dedicated service, it provides hope for someone in need.

Whether you believe in the Boy Scout creed, "Do a good deed every day." Or the Civitan creed of "Civitan helps people". Or the golden rule of "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". Filling and emptying the Lion fulfills our on-going mission...as Lions "We Serve!"