

El Cajon Valley Lions

www.ecvlionsclub.org

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Next Monday's Meeting with the Leos, 11:30 am at El Cajon High School Library

PREFACE

My fellow Lions, because I normally don't do a newsletter for last week's successful Speakers Contest and this week's joint luncheon with the Rotarians for the Citizen of the Year Award, I have decided to take this opportunity, (because of the many new members of our club over the last couple of years), to give you all a little history lesson on our club. I could write pages upon pages about our club and the effects that we have had on our community, but space is limited. I hope, after reading this you will realize why I have said many times... Remember that pin on your collar represents that you belong to the greatest service organization in the world, the El Cajon Valley Host Lions Club. Wear it proudly.



History of the El Cajon Valley

Lions Club, 1947 -2009

The El Cajon Valley Lions Club, sponsored by the San Diego Lions Club, was chartered on June 9, 1947 at Casper's Ranch Club with 59 members and two honorary members, Jack Schrade and Edwin C. Thacher. Aubrey "Bud" Sears, Jr. was the first president. Monday noon meetings were held weekly at Ernie's Ranch Club on El Cajon Boulevard.

Since then the club has met at Library Hall, the Athletic Club (698 West Main St.), the Moose Lodge (131 Chambers), the El Cajon Veteran's Meeting Hall (136 Chambers), and currently at the Ronald Reagan Community Center in El Cajon.

Lion Past President Dr. Warren Detrick, the only charter member still active in the club, is a Life Member of International. We've had 2 District Governors from our club. Lion Past District Governor E. Clarke Hatch was the 1967-68 Governor of District 4-L6 which included approximately 60 Lions clubs in San Diego and Imperial Counties and Lion Past District Governor Len Blottin who was the 2004-05 Governor of District 4-L6 which included approximately 33 Lions clubs in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Of the 61 Lions who have served as President of the club, 24 are still active members along with three other members who are Past Presidents of other Lions Clubs. 19 Past Presidents are deceased. Membership now consists of five Life Members, 19 Privileged Members, and 69 Active Members, for a total of 93.

In keeping with the motto of Lions International, "We Serve", the El Cajon Valley Lions Club has conducted a wide variety of fund-raising activities to finance a multitude of services to individuals, the community, the nation, and the world. These include two Lions Country Fairs in 1948 and 1949; annual horseshows for 30 years, 1954-1983; a yearly pancake breakfast since 1989; White Cane Days up to 2002; San Diego Symphony Summer Pops concerts in 1984 and 1985; several Bike-for-Sight rides; seven fishing derbies; float constructions and in April 1996 we created our Opportunity Drawing with the sale of 500 \$100 tickets on a drawing of a BMW Z3 or \$30,000 cash. This netted \$20,000 for the club's activity fund. This has been our major fundraiser over the last 13 years. We also sponsor the El Cajon Valley High School Leos club. These Leos learn the value of community service while creating a network of their peers and learn from early on what Lionism is all about. In 1993 Lion John Knudsen started our eye glass program for the club. The Club supplies an eye exam and new eyeglasses for any child in the East County whose family could otherwise not afford to provide. This program has grown to the 8 school districts in East County. We supply around 150 to 250 eyeglasses per year for children in need. I believe this to be one of our greatest achievements. Also another proud moment is the El Cajon Valley Lions Foundation, Inc. formed as a charitable 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation in October of 1997. The Foundation was organized for the purpose of promoting the welfare of humanity, including sight and hearing impaired as well as the underprivileged, particularly those unaided by existing agencies.

A partial list of the charitable organizations and projects to which

the El Cajon Valley Lions have contributed time and funds over the past 62 years include:

- Blind Recreation Center
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Boy Scouts of America
- Canine Companions for Independence
- Christmas Baskets (since 1975)
- City of Hope
- DARE (drug awareness)
- Door of Faith (Orphanage in Mexico)
- El Cajon Community Development Corp
- ECPD Bicycle Safety program
- Equipment for blind/deaf persons
- Eye Dog Foundation
- Eye Institute
- Eyeglass collection
- Flag Day
- Hurricane and disaster relief
- Boys and Girls Aid Society
- International COAD
- Leo Club,
- LCIF
- Lions optometric Vision Clinic
- Lions Quest
- Lions Wilderness Camp for the Deaf
- Meals on Wheels
- Mother Goose Parade
- Salvation Army Bell Ringers
- San Diego Blood Bank
- San Diego Service Center for the Blind
- Scholarships
- Sonshine Haven
- Student Speakers Contest
- Transportation of the blind

In addition, El Cajon Valley Lions have voluntarily provided support and leadership for numerous community activities. The club has designed, built, and entered a float in every Mother Goose Parade since its beginning in 1947. The float has won 13 Sweepstakes, a Governor's Trophy and 40 other awards. Of the 42 Past Presidents of the Mother Goose Parade Association, 15 have been El Cajon Valley Lions. Lion Past President Ron Paris is the 1996 president. Four Lions Club members, Past President C. Hamilton Judy, Past President Bob Steele, Jim Snapp, and Karl Tuttle served as Mayor of the City of El Cajon. Past Presidents of the El Cajon Chamber of Commerce include eight El Cajon Lions: Past President C. Hamilton Judy, 1951; Past President F. Joseph Doerr, 1954; Past President George Hurst, 1957; Dale Randles, 1968 - 1969; Richard Fritzer, 1974; Forest McKinley, 1975; Chris Demos, 1976; and Past President Roger Stebleton, 1983. Six El Cajon Valley Lions have been recipients of the El Cajon Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award including Jim Snapp, 1975; Charles V. Ferree, 1978; Past President Buell Stone, 1987; Past President Jerry Hollingsworth, 1988; Past President Ron Paris, 1991; & Past President Trenton W. Huls, 1995.

The current club membership includes 33 Melvin Jones Fellows, 39 Life Members of Canine Companions for Independence, and numerous Lion members with plaques on the Lions Wall at the City of Hope.

Notwithstanding the ongoing expenditure of effort, time, and money to help those less fortunate El Cajon Valley Lions have successfully included many enjoyable social activities in each year's schedule. Among these are golfing, bowling salt-water fishing, a steak fry, a campout and picnic, a Day at the Races, Padres Night, and a family Christmas party. The club has also been well represented at Cabinet meetings, and by delegates to annual Lions conventions held by District 4-L6, Multiple District Four, and Lions International.

Our club is rich in tradition and that's why I wear our pin on my collar every day saying I'm proud to be a Lion...See you all Monday. Ed