



Lions Club of Mokena, IL

DECEMBER, 2009

BYLIONS 2009

President's Message ...

Dear Fellow Lions,

I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving. Because of our efforts as Lions, I know there are a handful of families in Mokena who also had a Thanksgiving! Thank you **Lion Marv Orr** and **Lion Mike Leone** along with the help of **Lion John Kotara** and Berkot's Super Foods for all that you do behind the scenes. On Sunday November 22nd, I was very pleased at the turnout of Lions eager to help deliver food baskets to families in town. This, ladies and gentlemen, is what we are all about - HELPING. It is very easy to lose track of our mission and why we volunteer our time.

Soon after the Thanksgiving Baskets **Lion Dave Busch** (Chairman) made us all aware of the Berkot's (Mokena Location Only) Community Involvement Days on Monday, November 30th and Tuesday, December 1st. A portion of the sales were donated to our club. Lion Busch was quoted as saying "This here is the kinda fundraiser I like - I ain't gotta do nothin but talk about it". All kidding aside - Great event, we need things like this to help make up for our shortfall of the decreased sponsorship and lower fundraising of last year.

The November general meeting turnout was fantastic!!! I hope this is the start of a new beginning. I believe the credit goes to the \$1.00 beers on Thursdays. I don't know how long this will last...so I encourage everyone to take advantage of this and come to the meetings.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the December meeting. District Governor Lion Ken Novak will be present. **Lion Vince DiFiore Jr.** has provided a Christmas Tree for us to decorate to show spirit of the Mokena Lions. The 'Tree Decorating Parade and Ceremony' will take place after the conclusion of our December meeting. From what I can remember it is a good time.

Yours in Lionism,

Lion President Lee J Kaz

Treasurer's Report ...

From the desk of Club Treasurer **Lion Rich Gemmell** ...

Notable Income & Expenses of the previous month:

Members Dues Income \$1,425 (15 members @ \$95)
Thanksgiving Food Baskets Expense \$2,000

Account Balances:

.Lions Club Account Balances Report - As of 11/25/2009:2
(Includes unrealized gains)
As of 11/25/2009

Account	11/25/2009 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Palos Checking	2,208.75
Palos Money Market	15,278.39
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	17,487.14
TOTAL ASSETS	17,487.14
LIABILITIES	
	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	17,487.14

Club Info ... You should know ...



Swearing in of new 3rd Vice President

During the December General Membership meeting this Thursday, December 3rd, **Lion Brian Grove** will be sworn in as the new 3rd Vice President, filling the vacancy left due to the recent resignation of former Club President Tony Marmo. We hope all can attend this meeting at the Mokena VFW and wish Lion Brian well in his new position!



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

2010 Membership Dues are due January 1, 2010. For the Fiscal Year 2010, dues have been set at \$95 per member. The following from **Lion Treasurer Rich Gemmell** outlines the breakdown for this amount.

MOKENA LIONS MEMBERSHIP DUES

Lions International Dues	\$39.00	
State & District 1B Dues	\$13.00	
TOTAL		\$52.00
Accountant	\$400.00	
Illinois Atty General & Sec of State	\$25.00	
Printing & Postage	\$250.00	
Web Site	\$100.00	
Insurance	\$900.00	
Club Merchandise	\$200.00	
Misc	\$834.00	
TOTAL	\$2,709.00	
63 regular members @ \$43.00 =	\$2709.00	\$43.00
3 Life members no charge		
2010 Regular Membership Dues		\$95.00

The Night Before Christmas (The Veteran's Version)

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give
And to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kind
A sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, so dark and dreary,
I knew I had found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

I heard stories about them, I had to see more
So I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.
And there he lay sleeping silent alone,
Curled up on the floor in his one bedroom home.
His face so gentle, his room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?
His head was clean shaven, his weathered face tan,
I soon understood this was more than a man.
For I realized the families that I saw that night
Owed their lives to these men who were willing to fight.
Soon 'round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of soldiers like this one lying here.
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my country, my Corps."

With that he rolled over and drifted off into sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I watched him for hours, so silent and still,
I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.
So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,
And I covered this Soldier from his toes to his head.
And I put on his T-shirt of gray and black,
With an eagle and an Army patch embroidered on back.
And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,
And for a shining moment, I was United States Army deep inside.
I didn't want to leave him on that cold dark night,
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, whispered with a voice so clean and pure,
"Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch, and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night!

A Message from the Board of Directors ...

CALLING FOR YOUR DINNER RESERVATIONS!

As a direct result of the vigorous discussions about whether or not we will continue to have dinner provided at our General Membership Meetings, it was decided that our best efforts should be placed on increasing our monthly meeting participation. Several of our members stepped up to the challenge by forming a new Calling Tree Committee and have taken on the responsibility of placing a call to each and every one of our club members on a monthly basis to remind them of our upcoming meeting.

The Calling Tree Committee is doing the "hard work." We ask you as members to extend them the courtesy of returning their calls to let them know if you plan to be in attendance. ADDITIONALLY, please let them know if you plan to partake in dinner at that meeting. With budgets getting tighter, and revenues harder to generate, it is every member's responsibility, and common courtesy, to RSVP for the upcoming general meeting, dinner, and if you are bringing any guests. With accurate counts on dinner participation, we will not have to supplement our dinner expenses from our general fund.

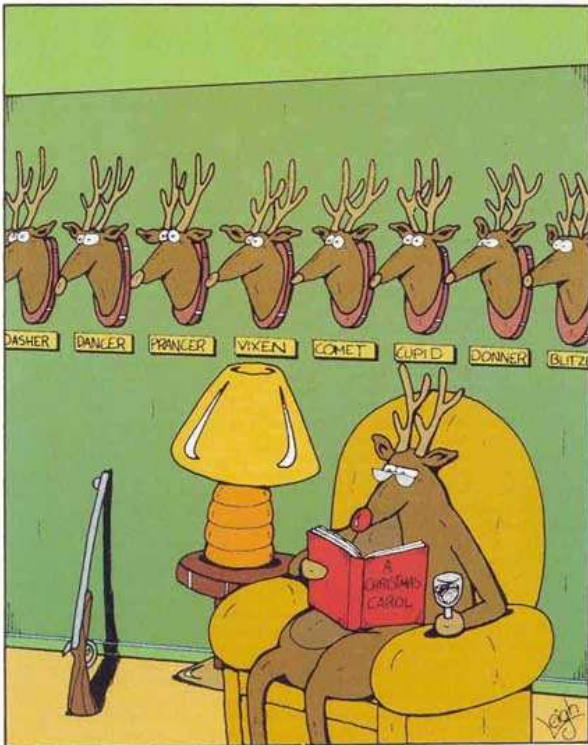
Plus, more members in attendance results in making ours a better club!

Thank you in advance for your increased participation and prompt responses to the Calling Tree Committee.

The Board of Directors

Christmas Funnies Found Around the 'Net ...

Rubes® By Leigh Rubin



All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names.

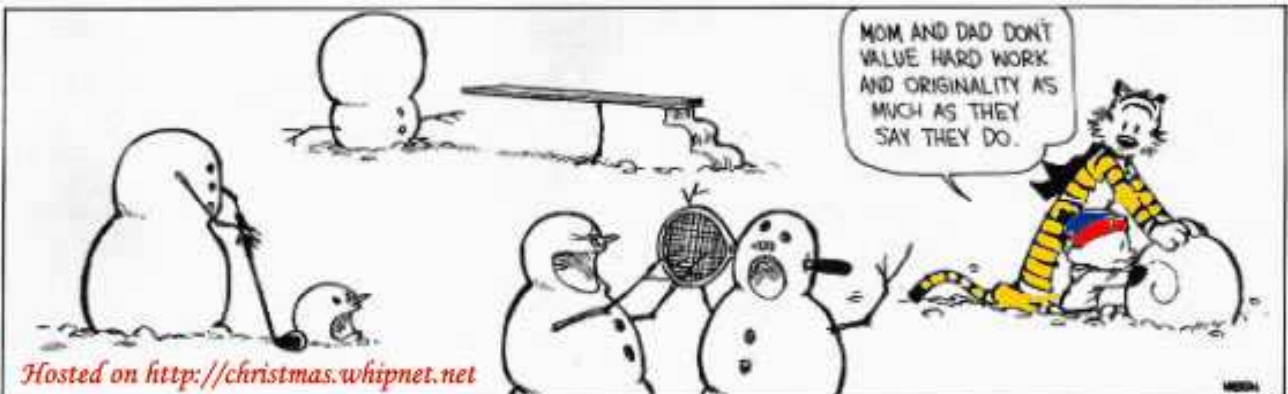
(c) 2004 Leigh Rubin

HOLIDAY TIP #37



NEVER CATCH SNOWFLAKES WITH YOUR TONGUE UNTIL ALL THE BIRDS HAVE GONE SOUTH FOR THE WINTER.

AHAJOKES.COM



Hosted on <http://christmas.whipnet.net>



Happy Birthday To You ...



Help these fellow members celebrate their Birthdays during the month of December ...

- **Lion Mark Costigan** – December 4th
- **Lion Pat Winters** – December 9th
- **Lion Mike Leone** – December 21st
- **Lion Brian Grove** – December 6th
- **Lion Ray Baranek** – December 13th



Happy Anniversary From the Mokena Lions ...

*"There's a way of transferring funds even faster than electronic banking – it's called marriage."
– Sam Kinison*

- Lion Derrald & Nancy Taylor – Dec 4th
 - Lion Anthony & Rubina Bruozas – Dec 22nd
 - Lion Rod & Cheryl Stickle – Dec 29th
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Upcoming Events ...



- **Mokena Lions December General Membership Meeting** – Thursday, December 3rd at the Mokena VFW, 6:30PM
- **Mokena Lions December Board Meeting** – Thursday, December 17th, Lion Bill McSherry hosting, Location TBD