

THE DAILY PLANET



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District 4-C6. Serving the South San Jose Community

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Side Lines

In the District Cabinet meeting held on November 10, Thirteen members from Almaden Super Lions entered the meeting and fifteen came home.

*Gov. Bob inducted Lion Denise and Lion Christine at the meeting. **Congratulations to Lions Denise and Christine.***

While worldwide Lions membership is on the decline, Almaden Super Lions Club is bucking the trend! In this month's Newsletter, we asked four members who joined the Club last year the "Why and Why" questions - why joined and why stayed after a year, to provide some insights on membership recruitment and retention.

Please write to us with your suggestions and comments at newsletter@almadenlions.org

Editor Lion Wen Daang



WE ARE BUCKING THE TREND!

DAILY PLANET EDITOR

For variety of reasons, job transfers, retirement, death, and more, many Lions Clubs' memberships are on the decline. Almaden Super Lions is bucking the trend. Our membership has been growing. Is it because of our vibrant activities, friendship, hands-on projects, humor, ... ?

We asked several of our members who joined the club last year to tell us – why did they join and why did they stay after a year. We want to welcome our new members and encourage everyone to have fun in the club while serving our community. Together, we can accomplish more!

WHY AND WHY

BY LION T. A. HUNTER

Why I am still a member after a year.

I rolled out of my bed just before my alarm sounded. It was six A.M. on Wednesday, my early morning. As I was preparing to leave the house a smile spread across my face. I checked my pockets to make sure I had my list of questions I was going to ask the gathering, I also checked to see if my badge was fastened to my shirt. I was ready, list, badge, glasses, pen, calendar, money, humor and muted cell phone!

I enter Baker's Square turned right toward the back section of the restaurant. I immediately hear the chatter of human conversation. I see people sitting or standing in groups discussing all manner of subjects. I am greeted with a hearty hand shake from Cap'n Don. Another hand shake from Jim "Big" Heart with a large smile and a good morning. Next I see Ed the Prez we shake hands and he ask if I can be the Greeter this morning, I agree. Then comes a successions of hand

shakes and greetings, Lois Lane, Tom past Prez, Jim shorts Hunt, Greg the CPA with humor, Beauty and the Rock Judy and Bob, Jeff Spitting, Father Howard, Judy the teach, Cathy the Dutchness, Phil the backbone, Na'ndor the money changer, Wen the techspert, all of these wonderful characters and many more make up the fabric that's we call the Almaden Super Lions Club.

The Prez rings the Bell , we recite the Pledge of Allegiance then Father Howard says a prayer and the meeting begins. Our sole purpose is to serve the community according to our club charter. We are hands on real time givers that is what we do. I am working together with generous and caring people on projects that make an immediate impact on the lives of people less fortunate than ourselves. It's A blessing . Oh! Here comes Alan electric man Woertink, he's late.....I will fine him.

Why did I join The Almaden Super Lions Club?, I was ASKED by a man I admired Dale McElroy. Need I say more!

WHY ME?

BY LION LEN GRILLI

Recently I was asked why I joined and why I remain a member of the Almaden "**SUPER**" Lions Club. As I began to list and rank my reasons, an interesting thought came to mind. Were my reasons personal since they reflected where I came from, who I am, and what I want to continue being? Or were they no more unique or personal than the reasons given for joining by the 1.4 million members that comprise Lions Clubs International. Nonetheless, here's why me!

At an early age my parents introduced me to the basic concept of being charitable and to appreciate what I had. It was never a matter of how much charity was extended or at what cost; but the mere fact that something was being done to assist someone in need. That early introduction continued during all of my schooling, in scouting, in the military, in business, and continues today.

Over the years I have had the pleasure of being a member of several civic and service minded organizations, including being a charter member, with very worthwhile and commendable service projects. My level of participation in those clubs was a mix of being committed and being involved. Since I never believed in being just a card carrier, I was either seriously committed; or here's your check so I can stay somewhat involved. As a result, my participation had the tendency to wax and to wane! However, things have changed for the better!

As a member in good standing of the Almaden "**SUPER**" Lions (ASL), which only means my dues are not in arrears, I am experiencing a level of satisfaction, a sense of belonging and accomplishment that exceed the aggregate of the my past experiences. Here's why in no particular order:

- Without benefit of uniforms and shoulder patches, the ASL wear their commitment on their faces. Are club polo shirts forthcoming?
- The club is held in high esteem and somewhat envied by others. It's an award winning organization.
- The club is mission oriented. Projects are defined, properly staffed, supervised, executed and then critiqued.
- Club members represent a wide range of education and experience which is freely shared with others.
- The club provides a unique way of developing or refining a member's leadership skills, sense of community, self-esteem, and other personal characteristics by participating in club sponsored projects.
- The ASL possess a chemistry they recognize as not being easy to synthesize; but are committed to its protection and preservation.
- The club provides a forum for open discussion on all matters of public and community interest.
- ASL have no objection to getting their boots dirty or dusty as long as the mission is accomplished.
- A warm and sincere welcome is always evident at all ASL meetings or events. And sometimes includes a hug!
- The ASL is a composite of minders, finders and grinders. (Smile Don)
- The club is united in the bonds of friendship and good fellowship.
- WE SERVE BEST by being SUCCESS ORIENTED!
- My Funk & Wagnalls Dictionary defines Leonard as: strong as a lion!
- Why me? Why not!

SPECIAL REPORT - AT RISK KIDS AND GANGS

BY LION JUDIE BENNETT



“He pointed out the stains on the sidewalk in front of his apartment building explaining, “Don’t step on the blood, or your mom will die.” “

[Editor - This is the fourth article in the series discussing “Children at Risk.” Lion Judie taught Social Studies and Language for 24 years, then became a Dropout Prevention Counselor for 8 years and Manager of the Healthy Start Center for 4 years. Since retiring, she has worked part time as Drug Free Schools Coordinator for 9 years. Lion Judie has a BA degree in Education and MA in Counseling Psychology. We hope that Judie’s report will bring awareness to the challenges that all of us, members of Lion Club and citizens in our community, are facing.]

I once belonged to a gang. I was 8 years old. My family had just returned to California after spending 2 years in Saudi Arabia where my dad was a mechanic for Standard Oil. Because housing was scarce after WWII, my dad bought a trailer (now called a mobile home) with the promise that we would move when he could find a house.

The town was an agricultural community and the majority of the families living in the trailer park fell into two categories: the families from Mexico who worked in the fields and the Anglo families whose parents worked in the lettuce sheds in a variety of jobs.

It wasn’t long before my sister and I figured out that to safely travel to and from the trailer we needed “protection”. This protection came in the form of having Big Beulah walk with us through the “Mexican” neighborhood of the park as we went to and from the bus stop. No one messed with Big Beulah and so no one messed with us. In payment, my sister and I kept Beulah’s mother’s icebox filled with ice which had fallen off the conveyor belt at the Ice House down the road. I was a member of her gang and happy to be one.

Saturdays and Sundays (ironically after everyone had returned from church!) were “battle” days. This consisted of fights with

the kids who followed the leadership of Powerful Petra. We all had rubber guns (sawed from wood with a trigger to release bands cut from inner tubes) and a very sophisticated battle would proceed. Everything was on a point system according to how many of Petra’s army you hit. Where you hit on the body mattered, the closer to the torso, the more points. These points could be saved up and traded in for “safe” trips to the washhouse. I became a very good shot! I could even “loan” my points to my sister. As a result, we survived our year in the park.

What did I get from being a gang member? I had friends, companionship, playmates, a sense of belonging; and, most of all, I had Big Beulah who took care of me.



It is not difficult for me to understand why kids join gangs. When you are dressed in “color” as a baby and are raised by an extended family of gang members, who, incidentally, love and care for you, belonging is a part of your life.

As a counselor based at an inner-city elementary school, I worked daily with gang families. Our school was on the dividing line between the two main gangs in our city. I witnessed a father being shot to death as he waited for his child at the end of the school day. He crossed the line.

I once walked Juan home after kindergarten was over. His mother was in the early stages of labor, so I accompanied him to his apartment four blocks away. He pointed out the stains on the sidewalk in front of his apartment building explaining, “Don’t step on the blood, or your mom will die.”

(Continued on Page 4)

WHY DID I JOIN

LION JUDIE BENNETT

Why did I join Almaden Super Lions? I had previously belonged to another Lions club, but decided to leave the group for several reasons, one of which was the time it took out of my work day.

I met a new neighbor who was an associate member of our club, and she encouraged me to visit. I immediately felt at home with our club and received a warm, warm welcome. There was a vibrancy to the club along with a great deal of enthusiasm and connectedness to the club's projects. Over the period of a year, I was able to see the great variety of services we brought to the community coupled with a great deal of pride in each project. Almaden Super Lions is a group of caring, nurturing, contagiously funny individuals; and who wouldn't want to remain in that environment?

I WAS BORED

LION WEN DOONG

Not anymore.

Kids are grown up now and I am not doing as much

traveling as I used to. For the longest time, I felt being cut off from the community where I live. Work was my life and my life was work. Outside of work, I had little interaction with people in the neighborhood and in the community. Putting 60 to 80 hour work-weeks was the norm. Last year, around September timeframe, I googled volunteering organizations in Almaden Valley. I found Tom Smith's contact information on-line. Sent an e-mail to him. Tom asked me to come to the Wednesday morning meeting and check it out myself. A couple of weeks later, I joined.

This past year has been rewarding. I had no clue that in the Capital city of Silicon Valley and in the affluent neighborhood of Almaden, there are so many needy families and at-risk children.

Poet Bert Schierbeek once wrote, "It's more complex than you think and if you think, it's even more complex." I want to restate it in a different way and give it to the new members who joined us recently, "our hands-on projects are more awarding than you think and if you think, they are even more rewarding." Take it one step further, let's roll-up our sleeves and serve our community. See you all at the Christmas Party for the blind on December 1.

(From Page 3 – Special Report)

A twist on "step on a crack and break your mother's back". He, at the age of five, was able to articulate very clearly the "rules" of protecting your territory. This hit home as not too far from my memory of protecting the turf of Big Beulah

One noon, while watching the children at play, a young man approached me asking if I was the counselor. I told him I was, and he proceeded to tell me of his desire to work with young boys and teach them to stay away from gangs.

Raul had just left three years of prison for being involved in gang crime. He was carefully dressed in khaki colors, avoiding the tell-tale blue and red. When we went to my office, I called his social worker. She said Raul was a bright, intelligent young man who had made a remarkable change in his life. She encouraged me to allow him to work in my program as a volunteer. The one change he had not yet made was his tattoos. He had at least 10 which I could see. His goal was to gradually have them all removed, and, in the meantime, he covered them as best he could.

Raul became an important role model and worked closely with me in my groups of 4th and 5th grade students. The last time I saw him, he was working at

COSTCO and finishing his last year of college. He would graduate the following June with a degree in...you guessed it...social work. Raul brought some wonderful insights to the students at my school. Although I have not been able to follow those students, his impact was very obvious. If a young man like Raul can make a turnaround as he did, it gives us hope. But hope is not enough. Our society needs to see the importance of finding the "Rauls" and putting them work with the youth of today.

Suppression only drains the society of much needed finances to make change. Intervention with young gang members is worthy, but always risky, as the call of the gang is powerful. The answer is in prevention, starting with the very young led by those who know all too well the price to be paid for gang involvement.



News Room



UPDATED BOARD MEETING LOCATIONS

There are only a few slots left to host our monthly board meeting. The meetings are a great time for fellowship and exchange of ideas as to the future of our club. The timing is somewhere around the 3rd Thursday of each month with nothing fancy in a relaxed meeting protocol. Reserve your spot and have a great group of Lions show up on your doorstep.

ALMADEN "SUPER" BOARD MEETINGS

2007 – 2008

JULY		Dinsmore @
AUGUST	23	Jimmy's
SEPTEMBER	20	Froom's
OCTOBER	25	Woertink
NOVEMBER	15	Spedding
DECEMBER	20	Simpson
JANUARY		24 Hunt
FEBRUARY		21 Doong
MARCH		20
APRIL		24 Ferber
MAY		22
JUNE		19
JULY		24

WWW.ALMADENLIONS.ORG WEB SITE UPDATES

Backpack for Kids Thank You Letters:

http://www.almadenlions.org/club_photos/Scanned_Thank_You_Notes/photo_index.htm

Board Meeting Locations:

http://www.almadenlions.org/clubmembers/Board_Meetings/2007-2008_Locations.pdf

Committees and Chairpersons:

<http://www.almadenlions.org/clubmembers/Committees/Almaden%20Lions%20Committees%202007-2008.pdf>

Picture of The Month

Editor: This is a new section started last month that DAILY PLANET Newsletter editor will select one picture from our reader submissions and share it with other Club members.

Picture on the right was submitted by a good friend of Lion Wen Doong, Dr. Michael Sites. Moon rises over a rigid mountain ridge. No, this not a picture of an alien planet. A group of Stanford alumni went to a national park near the southern tip of Argentina last month where Michael took this amazing shot.

We picked this picture for it reminds us the beauty of our World. It is vast and yet fragile.



Please submit your picture(s) to newsletter@almadenlions.org before the 5th of each month for that month's newsletter.

November 2007

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 44	28 8a Council of Governor's Meeting	29	30 6p 4C-6 Convention Meeting	31 7a Raffle Tom 7a Speaker Doong 7a super meeting	1	2	3
Week 45	4	5	6	7 7a Speaker Doong 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Snow	8 5:30p Visitation San Jose Pioneer Mariani's Restaurant	9	10 Peace Poster Deadline 8a 2nd District Cabinet
Week 46	11	12	13 6p Poker @ Simpson's	14 7a super meeting 7a Speaker Arley Marley Bone Marrow Transfer 12p Raffle Jeff	15 12p Visitation Prunedale 6pm Prundale Grange 6p Board Meeting @ Simpson's	16	17 12p Outing meet at Froom's Pot Luck Check with Jim Hunt
Week 47	18 3p Visitation San Jose Sampaguita 3pm Northside Community center	19	20	21 7a super meeting 12p Turkeys Out 12p Raffle Alan	22 THANKSGIVING	23	24
Week 48	25	26	27	28 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Bemis	29	30	1 11a Blind Center Christmas Party

December 2007

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 48	25	26	27	28 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Bemis	29	30	1 11a Blind Center Christmas Party
Week 49	2 AJ Robinson in Park 7a SAN JOSE CHRISTMAS (HOLIDAY) PARADE	3	4	5 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Judie B.	6	7	8 6p ALMADEN CHRISTMAS PARTY
Week 50	9	10	11	12 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Kevin	13	14	15
Week 51	16 12p PDG CHRISTMAS PARTY	17	18	19 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Phil B.	20	21	22
Week 52	23	24	25	26 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Eddie	27	28	29
Week 1	30	31	1	2 7a super meeting 12p Raffle Wen	3	4	5

Your Suggestions Count -

Please let us know how to make OUR Newsletter better. We welcome your input and article submissions.

Almaden Super Lions Newsletter

E-Mail: newsletter@almadenlions.org

Almaden Super Lions Club

Club President

Lion Eddie Dinsmore
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Lion Don Simpson
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geokrause@aol.com

Region 3 Zone 1

Mount Hamilton

1st & 3rd Thursday 7:00 pm, Baker's Square, Milpitas

San Jose East Valley

Every Tuesday 7:00 am except on the THIRD Tuesday at 7 pm, Carrow's Restaurant. 1696 Tully Road, San Jose

San Jose Host

Every Tuesday 12:00 pm
Moose Lodge, 1580 Hamilton Ave, San Jose

District 4C6

District Governor

Lion Bob DeUnger
Sunnyvale Host

Vice District Governor

Lion Marlene Duffin
Saratoga Lions

Cabinet Secretary

Lion Karen Fillmore
Scale of Justice

Cabinet Treasure

Lion Lila Johnson
Carmel Host

Region Three Chair

Lion Rick Silveria
Almaden Super

Zone One Chair

Lion Lois Ferber
Almaden Super

Zone Two Chair

Lion Bill Hart
Gilroy Lions