

BELLFLOWER  
NOON LION'S  
CLUB  
P.O. BOX 366  
BELLFLOWER, CA  
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# The Lion's Tale

Bellflower Noon Lions Club

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2012

## 2011-12 OFFICERS

President  
Larry Wehage  
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please send any photos,  
quotes, or stories (serious  
or otherwise) for the news-  
letter to: Joel Hockman  
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## USEFUL WEBSITES

### WWW.Blions.org

Bellflower Noon Lions (each  
edition of the Lion's Tale is  
posted on this Website)

### WWW.Lions4L2.org

Lions District

### WWW.Lionsclubs.org

Lions International

**HMMM.** . . "A fair repu-  
tation is a plant, delicate  
in its nature, and by no  
means rapid in its  
growth. It will not shoot  
up in a night like the  
gourd of the prophet;  
but, like that gourd, it  
may perish in a night."

*Jeremy Taylor*

*The Bill and Melinda  
Gates Foundation just  
donated a \$5,000,000  
matching grant to the  
International Lion's Club  
in order to help every  
child have a chance at a  
healthy life. Partnering  
with the Lion's, they are  
hoping to raise a total of  
\$15,000,000 !!*

## Kmart Shopping for Bellflower's Needy Kids Was Again One of the Coolest Lion's Events of 2011



13 Lions, along with Leos, and Miss  
Bellflower Court were all on hand to  
help serve 97 Bellflower kids again this  
year at Kmart.



Well meaning Lions helping out at the  
early morning event, but for some  
reason, "Smiling at evil, staring down  
evil, and looking away from evil"  
comes to mind in this photo.

## Lion's International Reminds Us...

**Lions Clubs International** is the world's largest service club organization. We have 1.35 million members in [more than 46,000 clubs](#) worldwide.

**Lions are everywhere.** We're active men and women in more than [206 countries and geographic areas](#).

**Lions have a dynamic history.** Founded in 1917, we are best known for fighting blindness – it's part of [our history](#) as well as our work today. But we also volunteer for many different kinds of community projects – including caring for the environment, feeding the hungry and aiding seniors and the disabled.

**Lions give sight.** By conducting vision screenings, equipping hospitals and clinics, distributing medicine and raising awareness of eye disease, Lions work toward their mission of providing vision for all. We have extended our commitment to sight conservation through countless local efforts and through our international SightFirst Program, which works to eradicate blindness.

**Lions serve youth.** Our community projects often [support local children and schools](#) through scholarships, recreation and mentoring. Internationally, we offer many programs, including the Peace Poster Contest, Youth Camps and Exchange and Lions Quest. And our Leo Program provides personal development through [youth volunteer opportunities](#). There are approximately 144,000 Leos and 5,700 Leo clubs in more than 140 countries worldwide.

**Lions award grants.** Since 1968, the [Lions Clubs International Foundation](#) (LCIF) has awarded more than US\$700 million in grants to support Lions humanitarian projects around the world. Together, our Foundation and Lions are helping communities following natural disasters by providing for immediate needs such as food, water, clothing and medical supplies – and aiding in long-term reconstruction.

**Lions are active.** Our motto is "We Serve." Lions are part of a global service network, doing whatever is necessary to help our local communities.

"Reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and angels know of us."

*Thomas Paine*

So what about the car show in 2012? Even though the recent Lion's car shows have been programmatically very successful (thanks almost exclusively to President Larry Wehage), they have been expensive events, that cost the Lion's Club several thousand dollars each year. In order for the club to continue, we will need more business sponsorship, community support, and individual assistance to make it economically feasible. If you are motivated to assist in any of these categories, please contact Larry ASAP. The club is currently in the process of deciding the fate/future of this community event, and the available time is bit short.

**Q: Who helps older Lions cross the street?**

**A: Cub Scouts (actually this is kinda clever)**

## Statement from the Club President



I made the mistake of blinking and now it's 2012! It seems like just a little while ago I was sporting a nice pair of bell bottomed jeans around town! Perhaps the message is that time is short, and we have to make the best of the amount we've been given. I think investing time into the club (i.e. the community) is still a good choice. We did some really good stuff in 2011 and we are already making plans to keep the pace into 2012. I'm hoping our economy will at least slowly start to work a little better, but in either case, the opportunities for service clubs to help fill the gaps will remain. I hope you will consider working with the Bellflower Noon Lion's Club in the next year. We have a rich heritage of "gettin it done."

**Larry Wehage, President 2011 – 2012**

## Let's Focus on Rick Cook...and Ramie.

I think most folks in the Bellflower Noon Lion's circle know Rick and his wife Urain. They have been making news in part due to Rick's past service as club president, his usual voice of reason (often mixed with a splash of sarcasm) at the meetings, his and Urain's second annual kindness of hosting the Lion's Club Christmas party, and Rick's recent appointment to the City's Public Facilities Corporation. Despite these many reasons for him to be photo worthy, Rick humbly admitted that Ramie was more photogenic and opted to share the limelight with her. She agreed that she was better looking than Rick, and opted to be in this photo without hesitation. During his interview, Rick reminded us that he and Urain are joined by their two kids, Madelyn (19) and Ryan (17). Rick has lived in Bellflower since he was 12 years old (1972 for any of you gamblers betting on his age. And if you are in this category, the phone number of Gambler's Anonymous is 888-GA-HELPS). After achieving an accounting degree from Chapman University, Rick eventually applied his business savvy to (we didn't talk about his earliest years out of school) join the family ownership of nine (9) Taco Bell restaurants. Those of you who remember when Pepsico's Taco Bell line was at/near the top of its market, also will agree that 1995 would have been a strategic time to sell out...which they did. After spending a week in Karachi, Pakistan, for the purpose of importing fabrics (which didn't financially work out, but sounds really Indiana Jones kinda cool), Rick decided to acquire and manage a number of apartment units. It turns out that there is substantially less grease involved in apartment managing vs. Taco Bell managing. Rick also likes to invest time and money in daily stock trading. He claims it is "The most counter-intuitive business that he knows: buy when you feel like selling and sell when you feel like buying." To a culture that is obsessed with "feelings," undoubtedly his advice has applications to other aspects of life beyond the market. In the Lion's Club environment, Rick enjoys the banter of its various members (guests are usually too intimidated to banter), and he frequently achieves the distinction of being the "alpha banterer." Rick is rightly proud of his family, including the growth and development of his kids, despite some challenges for them early on. Great improvement, good grades, and being selected as the year book editor are among highlights that would make any parent proud. The Bellflower Noon Lions are fortunate to know and party with the Cooks.





## Chaplain's Corner - Prayer All Around

Following is an impressive short interview with Rick Warren, 'Purpose Driven Life' author and pastor of Saddleback Church in California. In the interview by Paul Bradshaw, Rick said: People ask me, What is the purpose of life? And I respond: In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity. We were not made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven. One day my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body – but not the end of me. I may live 60 to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity. This is the warm-up act – the dress rehearsal. God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity. We were made by God and for God, and until you figure that out, life isn't going to make sense. Life is a series of problems: Either you are in one now, you're just coming out of one, or you're getting ready to go into another one. The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort; God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy. We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that's not the goal of life. The goal is to grow in character, in Christ likeness. This past year has been the greatest year of my life, but also the toughest, with my wife, Kay, getting cancer. I used to think that life was hills and valleys - you go through a dark time, then you go to the mountaintop, back and forth. I don't believe that anymore. Rather than life being hills and valleys, I believe that it's kind of like two rails on one railroad track, because realistically, at all times you will be experiencing both something good and something bad in your life. No matter how good things are in your life, there is always something bad that needs to be worked on. And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can thank God for. You can focus on your purposes, or you can focus on your problems: If you focus on your problems, you're going into self-centeredness, which is my problem, my issues, my pain. But one of the easiest ways to get rid of pain is to get your focus off yourself and onto God and onto others who are also in some sort of need. When I get up in the morning, I sit on the side of my bed and say, "God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better." God didn't put me on earth just to fulfill a to-do list. He's more interested in what I am than what I do. That's why we're called human beings, not human doings. Happy moments, PRAISE GOD. Difficult moments, SEEK GOD. Quiet moments, WORSHIP GOD. Painful moments, TRUST GOD. Every moment, THANK GOD.

Chaplain Gary Cordova



## Lions Club in Los Mochis, Mexico

Lions Member Joel Hockman stands alongside Los Mochis Lion President Jesus Urbina Cota during a recent trip to Mexico. Los Mochis has been Bellflower's Sister City for several decades. Every other year, a delegation of Bellflower residents and constituents makes the trip down for an entire week. The group is shown extreme

hospitality as they tour a variety of governmental and social highlights from the local culture. Los Mochis is about 80 miles from Mazatlan and among its many attributes, boasts perhaps the finest water quality in all of Mexico. This tends to come in handy for American travelers who prefer not to add unpredictable turbo intestinal adventures to their list of international experiences.



A tram for visitors spans a breathtaking portion of Copper Canyon (which is actually larger than the Grand Canyon)



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## Other Recent Events



Numerous Lions, Leos, Miss Bellflower, and other volunteers were on hand to again help with holiday basket distributions to local families



Annual carnival event at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Hospital in Downey with the help of Leos (at left); and the dedication of the \$1000 "acorn" to the hospital in the name of our late member and friend, Bob Eppele



### January B-Days

Larry Harmon — 16th  
 Jim Fisher — 17th  
 Ed Drayer — 17th  
 Mac Hijleh — 17th  
 Ted Edmiston — 20th  
 Lyle MacKenzie — 24th  
 Rick Cook — 24th  
 Ron Maxwell — 28th

Let's Celebrate!



### February B-Days

Joel Hockman — 1st  
 George Brink — 3rd  
 Bob Bandle — 9th  
 Mike Pfile — 12th  
 Mike Brassard — 13th  
 Robert Strausas — 13th  
 Dennis O'Cull — 19th  
 Danny Frechette — 23rd  
 T-bird Taylor — 28th

The December rummage sale was another profitable venture for the Noon Lion's Club. A total of \$2041 dollars were raised thanks to the help of several members: Larry W, Bill/Betty L, Lloyd I, Mike B, Dave P, Paul/Ruth M, and others. The next sale is tentatively scheduled for April 5 and 6, 2012. Apparently a collection of some fine and mostly tasteful items is currently building.