

# Roar of the Lion

## District A-42

July 2017

### Message from Our Centennial District Governor



A-42 Centennial District Governor, MJF Lion Chiragkumar “Kevin” Patel

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Dear Lions & Leos,

Please accept my lionistic salute & Namaste! First, we want to remember those Lions, Leos and families who have lost their dear ones, our deepest condolences to them and their families & pray Almighty God to give them strength to bear the great loss and rest the soul of their beloved in eternal peace. None can replace them, but their memories and service will always stay with us and inspire us in joining more hands to serve our community the best we can.

Congratulations Lions & Leos on your achievements throughout this year! I’m happy for the opportunity to serve as your Centennial District Governor. I plan to visit all the clubs in our District. The International President Dr. Naresh Aggarwal is from India and is truly a Lion in his heart. His theme is “We-Serve!” He practices all of these traits in his everyday life.

My goals for the year include:

(1) increasing membership and clubs, (2) sponsoring new clubs and (3) reducing the number of dropped members in order to provide much needed service to the increasing number of people who find themselves unable to make it on their own.

My theme for this year is “We Serve with Love, Care, Respect & Peace!” With more Lions we can provide more of the needed service which supports our motto “We Serve,” a motto which we all hold dear to our hearts. One thing we should keep in mind is that the District Governor exists to assist the clubs and communicate with Lions International. As I visit clubs and Lions I want to share some of the successes we have, the concerns that may be there and look at potential solutions that can move us all forward!

Many thanks to our Immediate Past District Governor Lion Al Kroell with our lovely First Lady Lion Christy Kroell, our First Vice District Governor Lion John Burns with Lion Judy, Second Vice District Governor Lion William “Van” Van Landingham & my lovely wife MJF Lion Falguni Patel & of course our lovely enthusiastic Lion & Leo District officers and our District 4-A2 members with their family — for your strong support in leading growth in membership and for all you have achieved in providing voluntary services to our communities. We will be soon stepping into the New Centennial era of Lions Clubs International to meet new challenges to provide service. And, by joining hands around the World, we will make this World a better place to live.

I am ready to assist you in any way I can with our enthusiastic District team. It was an amazing experience to learn about our Districts many clubs. My better half, MJF Lion Falguni and I had a great time everywhere we visited this past year, and hospitality was amazing. Whether it was at the meetings or during the club activities/projects, we were able to make many new friends and have had great fellowship. We want to spread message of love, care, respect and peace to make this world a better place to live.

My friends, our Association is not political, religious or affiliated to any non-humanitarian organization. Please proudly remember that we are the world’s largest volunteer service organization, remember we support humanitarian and environmental needs, and, always keeping these facts in mind, accordingly support our community as much as possible.

I hope you all know this and also practice a lot:  
 “Where there’s a NEED, there’s a LION!”

God Bless You All!

Sincerely with best lionistic regards with love, care, respect & peace from:  
 MJF Lion Chiragkumar “Kevin” Patel  
 Centennial District Governor (2017-2018)





## *A Message from 1st Vice District Governor*

Being the News

With the changing of the guard for our District to District Governor Chiragkumar “Kevin” Patel and his Cabinet, new opportunities have opened for many of our Lions to step up into District leadership roles.

I would ask each of you to support them with the same dedication and efforts that you continue to display year after year. No District is going to be successful without great Lions who are willing to step forward and meet the needs of the moment.

Experiencing the News First Hand I look forward to this year, and would ask each of you to make a point at some time this year to make a cabinet meeting. Until you do that, you won’t realize what you are missing.

Thank you for your service.

Yours in Lionism,

Lion John M. Burns

**“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”**

**Helen Keller**

## *Detwiler Fire – Food Servers Needed*

In light of the recent Detwiler Fire, in Mariposa County, we are looking for crews to come up to help prepare and serve food for the victims who have had to evacuate their homes. We will be serving anywhere from 50-500 persons per meal, depending on the fire conditions (whether people are evacuated or are able to go back home). We need about 15 persons per meal. The evacuation center is located at the Sonora Motherlode Fairgrounds (Address: 220 Southgate Dr,

Sonora, CA 95370, the Sierra building). Please let the volunteer at the entrance know that you are here for the Lions Club relief effort.

Morning breakfast crews should plan to arrive by 7 am through approximately 10:00 am (including end of shift cleanup). Lunch crews need to be here by 11 am through 1:30 pm (with cleanup), and dinner crews need to be here by 4 pm.

Meals are usually served beginning one hour after time of arrival. If you belong to a Lions club, please feel free to wear your club shirts. Wearing of your vest with pins is frowned upon by the Red Cross (for safety reasons). If anyone is having breathing difficulties, it may not be advisable for them to come up, as the quality of air at times is not

always optimal due to the smoke.

Please call Lion Wendy Penhallegon at 209-406-5015 to schedule your time slot to come help. We ask that you not just show up to help, as we may already have a full crew and space can get cramped. Right now we have a fairly open schedule, with lots of time slots available for the next 2 weeks. If you feel you cannot come in person to help, you can always help out by donating Visa or MasterCard gift cards in denominations of \$5 or more, which would enable us to purchase foodstuff and supplies as needed. Please feel free to call Lion Wendy Penhallegon at 209-406-5015 if you have any questions. Thank you for your service.



## Who is My New Zone Chair?

DG Chiragkumar 'Kevin' Patel especially thanks these zone chairs for their service!

**EVERYBODY WANTS TO KNOW WHO THEIR NEW ZONE CHAIR IS! -**



### Northern Region:

**ZONE - 1: Lion Rosendo "Bob" Casas (Fresno Unlimited)**

Fresno Host, Fresno Unlimited, North Fresno, Diwata

**ZONE - 2: Lion Johnny Orosco (Fresno Pride)**

East Fresno, Fresno Pride, Clovis, Clovis Country, Ponderosa, Shaver Lake

**ZONE - 3: Lion Anna Herrera (Parlier)**

Calwa, Parlier, Fowler, Sanger, Selma, Selma Charter, Central Valley Lioness Lions

**ZONE - 4: Lion Mike Botello**

Dinuba, Cutler-Orsi, Orange Cove, Kingsburg, Reedley

### Central Region:

**ZONE - 1: Lion Cheri Provancha (Visalia Pride)**

Visalia Host, V Sequoia, V Breakfast, V Sunset, V Pride, Charter Oak

**ZONE - 2: Lion Rebecca Juarez (Visalia Host)**

Three Rivers, Woodlake, Exeter, Ivanhoe

**ZONE - 3: Lion Michael Garcia (Porterville Breakfast)**

Tulare Host, Pixley, Porterville Breakfast, Springville Mountain

### Southern Region:

**ZONE-1: Lion Maria Pimentel (Richgrove)** [meripimentel45@gmail.com](mailto:meripimentel45@gmail.com)

Delano, Richgrove, McFarland, Shafter, Oildale

**ZONE-2: Lion Fred Linder (Rosedale Highway)**

Bakersfield Host, B Sports, B Breakfast, East Bakersfield, B Donghae

**ZONE-3: Lion Jim Caswell (Lamont)**

Arvin, Lamont, Rosedale Highway, Buttonwillow, Taft, Taft Midway-Sunset

### Western Region:

**ZONE-1: Lion Virginia Madden (Laton)**

Riverdale, Caruthers, Kerman, San Joaquin-Tranquility, Easton, Laton

**ZONE-2: Lion Ever Casas (Lemoore)**

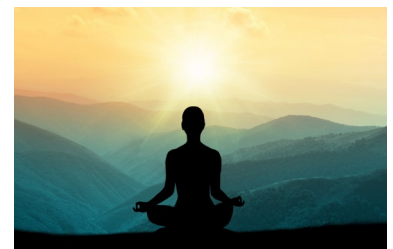
Lemoore, Kings, Hanford Breakfast, Corcoran, Coalinga

## District Meeting Zen

The history of meditation is long and illustrious, yet many people today forget that it is an ancient practice. Indeed, the history of meditation stretches back thousands of years and quite possibly never has it been more needed than now. With all the stresses and strains that

modern day life places on us all, we can learn much from the history of this super powerful, highly effective form of stress relief and health enhancement. There will be voluntary meditation, deep breathing exercise to energize you all during the jump start of each District meetings. Also, as we

are aware that Lions Clubs International has been working very hard to support Diabetes Awareness, we will enhance our Centennial Celebration through our voluntary participation in District Zumba Dance for yourself and our loved ones a night before our District meetings.





## LCI Forward Program

The goal of LCI Forward is to triple our impact worldwide by improving the lives of at least 200 million per year by 2020-21 through expanded humanitarian service.

The number of people in need served by a Lions Club - the visually impaired, people with disabilities, people needing urgent assistance and often life-changing medical assistance - has increased sharply (by four-fold) since 2010-11, and is increasing every year.

The need for voluntary human-

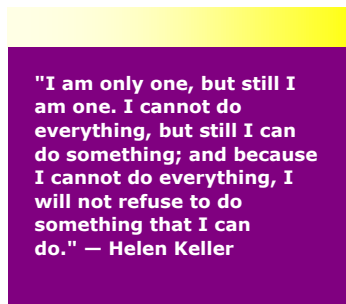
itarian service is higher than ever as a result, and we need to remind society of our impact, and what communities could be like without a Lions Club, and what people united in service can do to meet rising needs and build communities of hope and resiliency.

We are today the largest voluntary service organization in the world. Continuing to innovate in services to Lions clubs and districts, including further harnessing technology advances, will be essential to our second century of success and expand-

ing our humanitarian service.

People have more choices today to serve and give back to their community/people in need. We need to continue promoting new ways for caring people to be involved in our service and provide options for service engagement which are flexible and mesh with today's busy lifestyles. We will continue to welcome people of all ages, genders, races and faiths into our movement. Visit LCIF Website for more information.

## District Recognizes 4 with Excellence Awards



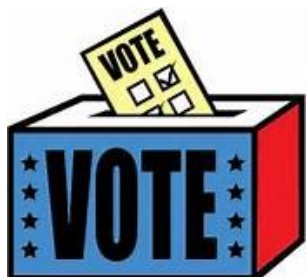
Due to the growth of our district, we were able this year to recognize four of our Lions with the MD-4 Excellence award at the 4-A2 District Convention in Morro Bay. The MD-4 Excellence Award comes as a medal, and may only be earned once.

The 2016-17 recipients are: Lion Christy Kroell, Lion Van

Van Landingham, PDG Walt Juarez, and PDG Fred Dupras. Lion Van's work is briefly summarized in the Lion of the Year article. Lion Christy spent a lot of time seamlessly interpreting for District Governor Al as he developed eye problems during the year that severely limited his ability to read. PDG Walt served as our

district coordinator this year for the Global Membership Team, a year in which we have chartered a new Lions Club. PDG Fred led the team that put together the amending of our District Constitution. A constitutional law scholar, the Honorable PDG Fred put in countless hours bringing our constitution up to date.

## New District Election Procedure



At this year's annual District Convention in Morro Bay, clubs still sent delegates to vote on behalf of their clubs. While the delegates still voted, the

committees overseeing the process changed as a result of our extensive amending adopted at our special Convention called in September of 2016.

This was the first District election help under the new procedures. A few delegates were surprised, but 71 of the 72 certified delegates voted in Morro Bay.



## Big Day for Van VanLandingham

Lion Van filled in when the District needed help at the cabinet secretary job mid-year. This was along with his work in new club development, and disaster follow-up in the Kern River Valley following the fire there. At the District

Convention in Morro Bay, Lion Van was named our District LION of the YEAR. On top of that he was elected 2nd Vice-District Governor for the coming year.

In addition, Porterville LEO

Matthew Brown named District LEO of the Year. LEO Matthew will now represent our district in the Academy Awards of Lions at the MD-4 Convention in San Diego next February.

## Trice Harvey Memorial Blood Drive

The Trice Harvey Memorial Blood Drive was held at Houchin Blood Bank in Bakersfield on Saturday, July 15th 2017. Lions in the Southern Region collected 75 units of blood plus 30 units of platelets.

Trice Harvey's daughter attended and the blood bank was

very impressed by the quantity of donors the Lions rounded up.

A few facts about donating: Today, fewer than 4 of every 10 people in the U.S. are eligible to give blood. Fewer than 1 in 10 actually donate; Approximately 40,000 pints of blood are used each day in the United

States; Approximately 1 out of every 7 people entering the hospital needs blood; 1 donation has the potential to save as many as 3 lives.

Zone Chair Fred Linder and the Houchin Blood Bank look forward to doing this again next year.



Give the gift of life



Donate blood

## Good News for Lion Happy Van Caster

Past District Governor Happy was our convention chair all year, responsible for both the special Convention in September in Visalia and the regular one in April in Morro Bay. She was, until a doctor's visit turned into an unexpected surgery.

So, just as the Morro Bay convention was about to begin, PDG Judy Woolley was called on to put all of PDG Happy's work into action during the convention itself. She was ... until a serious fall just before lunch on Saturday of the convention took her to the hospi-

tal, and even delayed her return from San Luis Obispo County several days.

What was the good news for PDG Happy? She has now been released, cleared to drive, and declared cancer free. We have a survivor.

## A Note from PDG Happy Van Caster

Dear Lions,

To say Thank You seems so inadequate. Yet that seems to be all that I can say. Receiving the beautiful plant from District 4A2 while I was still in the hospital was over whelming. So many of the staff threatened to steal it while I was sleeping.

Then receiving the large card, that PDG Judy Arribere Woolley passed around and seeing so many get wells and telling me that so many were praying for me gave me great strength.

I am happy to tell you, that I have been deemed cancer free and I am on my way to recov-

ery.

I look at the plant daily and thank God for the friendship of so many in my Lions family. Again, all I can say is thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Yours in Lionism

PDG Happy Van Caster



Happy's Get Well Plant



# District A-42 Annual Convention – Cayucous/Morro Bay





## One Question Leads to Everlasting Global Connections

Since being introduced to the World Link program in 2007 and hosting their first international student in 2009, World Link veteran host family, Jim and Susan Boyd have hosted 6 exchange students and will be hosting a 7th this upcoming exchange year.

Recently, a dream of Jim and Susan's came true and they were able to spend one month during the Summer of 2017 in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. While there, they visited some of their exchange daughters; one dating back to almost 10 years ago. It was evident upon first stepping off the plane, global connections are forever.

During their one month trip, the Boyd's and their exchange daughters toured cultural sites and tasted traditional food, but more importantly they spent time together as a family. They laughed together while playing endless games of UNO. They shared stories over fresh cups of coffee. They even celebrated Father's Day with a beautiful cake made for Jim. As you will see from the story written by the Boyd's below; the students they have hosted are not simply foreign exchange students – They are and will always be a Boyd.

### A History of Hosting

*Our story starts back in 2007 when we met a young lady that came to our Lions Club meeting to do a presentation regarding the FLEX Program and World Link Inc. This young lady's name was Laylo, she spent some extra time talking to people after her presentation. She came up to Jim and I; and asked "why you not have a student"?*

*From that minute forward that was all that Jim could think about. The school year passed and the next year started, we hadn't made any decisions to host until we got a call about helping a couple of young ladies from Kazakhstan with some volunteer hours. So Jim's first experience was getting to know these two girls while ringing the Salvation Army Bell at Christmas time.*

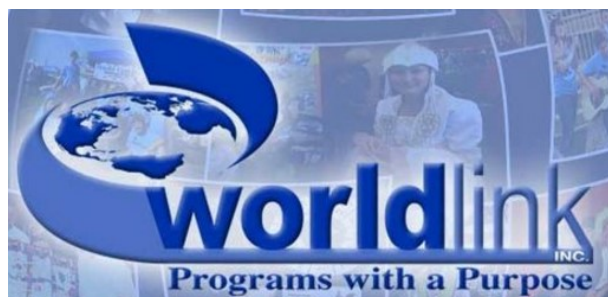
*It was love at first sight, they became our shadows and went to everything the Hanford Lions Club had to do, even getting up at 5:30 am to attend Breakfast Club meetings. Not long after that we were asked to provide temporary housing on a short term basis. We did, but even after finding excellent host families they continued to attend Lions meetings and help at all projects. And spending Wednesday nights at our home.*

*So you could say Aiman and Aiganym had Jim at the first hello. And the story continued, the following year we hosted Giza from Tajikistan, followed by Mybari from Turkmenistan, Shota from Georgia, Shristy from India, Javohir from Tajikistan, and Asel from Kyrgyzstan. We have loved every minute spent with all of our children, we have embraced their cultures and learned as much as we could about each country. And we shared our families and our culture with them.*

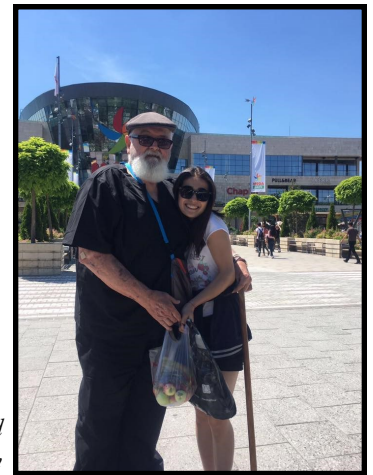
### Visiting Our Global Family

*This year we lived our dream, we traveled to Almaty, Kazakhstan and visited with Aiman and Aiganym in their country. Javobir traveled to spend time with us and meet her sisters. We traveled and saw many sights, we enjoyed the arts; seeing a ballet and attending a symphony. We met many of the relatives, each welcoming us into their homes and feeding many traditional dishes. We have been invited back whenever we can make it. We never felt like strangers, from the first bugs we knew we were family.*

*Our next trip took us to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Our daughter Asel is attending university there; our daughter Giza, now lives and works in Dubai. They made all the arrangements for our stay there and made sure we always had plenty to eat.*



*Asel's Grandmother traveled from their town Talas to meet us and spend several days with us. Again we saw many sights, we traveled and stayed at Lake Issy-kekul for 3 days. Grandma and the girls made Plov outside on a huge wok, we visited the Bazaar's, took several walks in the parks which had many monuments.*



Lion Jim Boyd and Javohir Faizulloeva (2014; Tajikistan/CA) reunite in Kazakhstan.



Aselya Almazbekova (2016; Kyrgyzstan/CA) and Hanford Leo member making Plov in a traditional wok.

## WorldLink Global Connections (cont.)

### Visiting Our Global Family (continued)

*We also met with the Bishkek Lions Club, their meeting place is at the National Art Museum. Asel was a member of the Hanford Leo Club while she was in Hanford. Both girls translated for us and Asel has been invited to join the Lions Club in Bishkek and possibly help them start their own Leo Club.*



World Link FLEX Alumni Gulfiza Ganieva (2010; Tajikistan/CA) & Aselya Almazbekova (2016; Kyrgyzstan/CA) who is also Hanford Leo Member visit Bishkek Lions Club & tour National Museum.

### Seeing the Impact

*We will tell you this, you will never know what an impact you make on someone else's life until you reunite with them. Our Giza shared with us, she always dreamed to be an only child, she always dreamed to never have hand me down clothes when she was a small girl. And we were her dream. And you never know how much you love them until you miss them like crazy. Our hearts yearn for the ones that we weren't able to see, but we will some day, we hope soon. Our family has grown by about 40 people now. Not only do we have children to visit, but brothers and sisters and cousins. And just some old friends we met in the US a few years back. We were living the dream and we will dream and live it again.*

*When you open your heart, family and your home to an exchange student, you definitely open up the entire world to new opportunities. Your life is forever changed, and words cannot describe the love that you give and receive. We were able to see and enjoy the impact we actually had on each of these our children.*

### Our Gratitude

*Our plans for the next trip have already started. When our children returned to their home we all felt the heart break, we felt lonely and empty with each one. The minute you step back in to each other's life, it was like there was no time separating us.*

*Thank you parents, grandparents and families for sharing your children with us. Words can not express the how much we have appreciated your hospitality and love you have shown us during our visit. We love you all, your countries and your people and learning more about traditions. Thank you daughters and the other FLEX students for all the wonderful surprises. But mostly for your love.*



Susan Boyd and her exchange daughter Javohir Faizulloeva (2014; Tajikistan/CA).



Jim and Susan Boyd enjoying a traditional meal with their exchange daughters; Aiman Adelshiyeva (2009; Kazakhstan/CA) and Aiganymn Zhakassova (2009; Kazakhstan/CA) and their new extended family: Aiganymn's mother, her aunts and uncles, and her cousin's son in her cousin's home.



Jim and Susan Boyd seeing the beautiful landscape of Kazakhstan with World Link FLEX alumna Aiman Adelshiyeva (2009; Kazakhstan/CA) and Aiganymn Zhakassova (2009; Kazakhstan/CA).





Have an event or submission you'd like included in the next issue? Please contact Lion Kristian Hart via email at kristianhart@hotmail.com or by phone at 949-205-9349.



## 2017-2018 DISTRICT 4-A2 CABINET:

Centennial District Governor	Chiragkumar "Kevin" Patel
1st Vice District Governor	John Burns
2nd Vice District Governor	W "Van" Vanlandingham
Cabinet Secretary	Dick Piepenburg
Cabinet Joint Secretary	Engr. Eleanor Perry, CE.
Administrative Assistant	Bill Munoz
Cabinet Treasurer	Jan Beatty, EA
Global Membership Coordinator	F. Dean Church, PDG
Global Leadership Coordinator	Betty L. Moris, PDG
Global Service Team	Anthony T. Martinez, PDG
WebMaster	Bob Patel
Newsletter Editor	Kristian Hart

## Rest in Peace, Lion Mike Serban



*Lion Mike Serban*

Michael N. Serban, 86, passed away peacefully surrounded by family, on April 15, 2017, in Bakersfield, CA. Mike was born on May 24, 1930, in Canton, OH and at the age of 7 moved with his parents to Los Angeles. He graduated from John Muir College in Pasadena and met his future wife Nancy Ross whom he married in 1952.

In 1954, finishing his service in the United States Air Force, Mike and Nancy moved to Bakersfield to help run the family business, the Palms Motel & Restaurant. Mike then became a business owner of Serban's Cocktails, Serban's Catering and Serban's Buckhorn.

His passion for others was evident from his long-standing membership to the South Bakersfield Lion's Club which he joined in 1956. Lion Mike also participated in many other clubs and organizations within the community. He taught his family to love, respect, and be compassionate to all people. His humor and sweetness were embraced for years at the amazing program offered by the Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County, and the last few months by the patient and loving staff at Pacifica Senior Living. His granddaughter, Terri Serban Agcaoli, inspired by the giving nature of her grandfather, has become an integral part of

spreading the word about the disease.

He was an amazing District Tail Twister, always raising "just one more dollar" for a good cause. He had a voice that could always be heard around the room as he made hilarious side comments. After Mike roamed the room, ladies often found out they had somehow stolen the facility's silverware when they checked their purses.

Some of Lion Mike's famous lines were, "Fine & Dandy" and "Do me a favor... SMILE."

- adapted from the obituary in the Bakersfield Californian April 19, 2017

**"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us." — Helen Keller**