



# The Garden Ridge LIONS' DEN



The Newsletter of the Lions Club of Garden Ridge, Texas  
*A Club to Serve the Needs of our Community.*

Volume 3, Issue 2

[www.gardenridgelions.org](http://www.gardenridgelions.org)

February, 2023

## OUR NEXT MEETING

### **THE LIONS CLUB OF GARDEN RIDGE**

**will meet on Wednesday, February 8, at 7:00 p.m.**  
**at the Garden Ridge Community Center,**  
**9400 Municipal Pkwy, Garden Ridge, TX**

**Setup at 6:30.**

**Questions? Call or email our President,**  
**Steve Gallets at 254-366-9018**  
**or at [galleste@sbcglobal.net](mailto:galleste@sbcglobal.net)**



### **Our Guest Speaker**

**Our guest speaker for this meeting will be**

**WHITLEY CHEATHAM**

**Owner - Dog Training Elite, San Antonio.**

For more information, see page 2.



### **Whitley Cheatham - Owner and Training Director**

Whitley's passion for being with and training dogs began at the young age of three when she trailed after and later assisted her grandfather with his hunting kennel. She served as a paramedic in the San Antonio and surrounding areas of Bexar County for eight years, where her commitment to patients ensured that she delivered the highest level of care. Whitley purchased her first German Shepherd many years ago and rediscovered her passion for both owning and training her own dogs and helping others own a well trained pet. She has worked with many breeds over the years but continues to have a special bond with the working breeds. Whitley trained with DTE corporate team members and is committed to bringing the highest level of training possible to her clients and their dogs. She has offered her services in our community for over 6 years and works closely with the Malinois Foundation by providing our veterans with low or no cost training. Most recently, Whitley and her staff volunteered to train service dogs for the survivors and their families of the Uvalde school shootings. Giving back to the community is an important part of her business and relationship with the community.

### **Geneva Story - Facility Trainer**

Geneva came to DTE after serving in the military for eight years. During her service she worked as a kennel master and trained dogs for highly specialized detection skills. Geneva specializes in scent work training and has been a vital component of our Diabetes Alert Dog program, where she teaches dogs to alert their handlers to high or low glucose readings. This enables handlers to obtain an alert in real time-no more waiting for their glucose monitors to update. Geneva has trained several service dogs to work with children who have diabetes and the program has an excellent success rate. By getting real time alerts, these dogs provide security to both parents of children dealing with diabetes and adults battling this destructive disease. These dogs provide an increased level of independence and security against the debilitating symptoms of a low or high blood sugar. Geneva was trained in using the Dog Training Elite methods and additionally trains dogs for obedience and other forms of service including PTSD, anxiety, depression and mobility. Like Whitley, Geneva has a special bond with working breeds and a passion for the German Shepherds and Malinois.

### **Our Club Officers**

Steve Gallets - President

Mark Meyers - 1st Vice President

Amanda Hagy - Past President

Becky Houy - Secretary

Tara Brown - Treasurer

Randy Maschek - Club Membership Chair

Dick Holloway - Club Service Chair

Kerry Ledford - Club Marketing Chair

Mark Frye - Director

April Cook - Director

## Lions Club Events Coming Up

February 25 and 26 - District 2S3 Leadership Forum, Embassy Suites, 1001 E. McCarty Lane, San Marcos. For upcoming Officers and District Officers.

February 8, Wednesday - Club meeting, Garden Ridge Community Center.

February 22, Wednesday - Club meeting, Garden Ridge Community Center.

March 1, Wednesday - City Council proclamation for our 50th Anniversary at the Garden Ridge City Council meeting, 6:00 p.m.

March 4, Saturday - Texas Lions Camp Workday in Kerrville.

March 8, Wednesday - 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Oak Valley Vineyard on FM 3009, 6:30 until 9:00 p.m.

March 18, Saturday - Information Table setup at Garden Ridge Community Center from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

March 22, Wednesday - Club meeting, Garden Ridge Community Center.

April 1, Saturday - Texas Lions Camp Workday in Kerrville.

April 21 and 22 - Lions Club District 2S3 Convention in Bastrop,

May 6, Saturday - Texas Lions Camp Workday in Kerrville.

May 18, 19, and 20 - Texas Lions Club State Convention in Fort Worth.

Date TBD - Presentation of Appreciation at the State Capitol Building in Austin by Senator Donna Campbell and Representative Carrie Isaac.

Dates TBD - Bat Cave Road cleanup. Walter Surgnier is the new Road Cleanup Coordinator.

### A new sponsorship opportunity for us!



CHECK OUT WORKS WE ARE DOING IN THE COMMUNITY!

- Home
- Origin
- Events
- Values and Programs
- Ways to Help
- Playcards
- Wish Granting
- Mission Statement
- Media and Video
- Brain Injury Information
- About Maurice Lamkin Jr.
- Contact Us



Click here to watch Maurice's 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday Video!

Click here to watch Maurice's 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday Video!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS/DONORS/ADVERTISERS!





[www.wishforthesky.com](http://www.wishforthesky.com)

Wish For The Sky Brain Injury Foundation Loves to Honor Businesses in the community doing Wonderful Works And Thanking them for Supporting Our Mission!

## 2023 Business Honoree:



**Garden Ridge  
Lions Club**  
"WE SERVE"



Since 1917, Lions Clubs have offered people the Opportunity to give something back to their communities. The Garden Ridge Lions Club began it's commitment to service Over 48 Years ago in 1973

and continues today by seeking out all forms of community need and developing ways to serve & satisfy those needs! "WE SERVE"



JUR



Founded by three Detroit area Lions Clubs members in 1939, Leader Dogs for the Blind provides dog guides to people who are blind or visually impaired to enhance their mobility, independence and quality of life. Each year, over 270 participants attend our 26- day residential training program to be paired with a dog guide. This is a life-changing event that opens the doors to independence, safety and self-worth for many of the participants in the Leader Dog program.



## World Services for the Blind

Lions World Services for the Blind was founded in 1947 by Roy Kumpe to serve people who are blind and visually impaired who needed to learn independent living skills or job training skills that considered the special requirements of their individual visual impairments. The goal of the rehabilitation center then, and today, is to prepare the individual who is blind or visually impaired to function independently in our "sighted" society.



## Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION

The Lions Club International Foundation provides funds for relief from disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and floods. It also provides funds to aid in construction of hospitals, clinics, schools and other needed projects.

### **Texas Lions Foundation**

Since its founding nearly 37 years ago, our District 2-S3 has contributed \$239,000 to the Foundation. In that same time period, \$782,000 has been distributed to Texas Lions Clubs for Humanitarian Projects and Disaster Relief in Texas. Congratulations – YOU continue to make a difference in Texas! For the current Lions Year that began July 1, 2020, 41 Clubs in the District have already become 100% Clubs supporting the Foundation. If you have not made your 100% Club contribution, there is still ample time to do so. Contributions from the 41 Clubs totaled more than \$3,500 and qualify each Club to receive a recognition banner patch which would have been presented at the Mid-Winter Conference – the plan now is to present the banner patches at the District Convention on May 1, 2021.

### **How We Serve**

There are 1.35 million Lion members in 45,000 clubs world-wide. We are active in more than 208 countries and geographic areas. We conduct vision and health screenings, build parks, support eye hospitals, award scholarships, assist youth, provide help in time of disaster, and much more.

## A Brief History of Lions International

In June of 1917, the Melvin Jones Business Circle of Chicago contacted several similar organizations and held their first convention in August in Dallas, TX. The first International Lions Club was established in Windsor, Ontario, in 1920. In 1925, Helen Keller challenged the Lions to become the "Knights of the Blind." Lions Club International had its major expansion between 1950-1970. Women were admitted to become Lions in 1987.

## History of the Garden Ridge Lions Club

A community-wide effort to help individuals and families in times of need or disaster has long been a characteristic of the rural Southwest. This willingness to assist neighbors in times of crisis seemed inherent to the early residents of the Garden Ridge community. The rapid development of the area during the early 1970's brought the realization that some type of formal organization was needed to grow with the community while also meeting their increased charitable and civic needs. This realization "planted the seed" and resulted in the founding of the Garden Ridge Lions Club in early 1972. Formal presentation of the Charter was made on April 25, 1973, at a banquet held at the Randolph Air Force Base Non-Commissioned Officers' Club.

## Regional, State, and International Charities Supported Texas Lions Camp

The Texas Lions Camp is a 500-acre camp located in Kerrville, Texas, for physically handicapped, Down Syndrome, and insulin-dependent diabetic children. The camp was founded April 4, 1949, and had 40 excited kids for the first camp held on June 8, 1953. The first summer the camp served 236 children and now averages about 1300 per summer. The camping sessions offer the kids swimming, horseback riding, fishing, archery, and nature studies. All camping and services are provided at no cost to the children or their families. We spend three Saturdays every year, approximately 300 work hours, getting the Texas Lions Camp painted and cleaned-up for that year's campers.

## How We Fund Our Programs

Primarily, we donate our time and talent to fund raising and local humanitarian projects. Our primary fund raising project is the Annual Food Fest, Raffle, and Auction held every year on the first Saturday in October at the Garden Ridge Community Center. Come out and support us!

The Garden Ridge Lions Club meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the Garden Ridge Community and Event Center, 7400 Municipal Pkwy, Garden Ridge.

*Garden Ridge Lions Charities, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) IRS tax exempt organization.*

## **The Purposes of the Garden Ridge Lions Club**

- To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
- To promote the principles of good government and good citizenship.
- To take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social, and moral welfare of the community.
- To unite the members in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship, and mutual understanding.
- To provide a forum for open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.
- To encourage service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works, and private endeavors.

## **Local Humanitarian Programs of the Garden Ridge Lions Club**

- Eyeglass Recycle – visit Garden Ridge library eyeglass recycle drop box
- Youth Scholarships – Local High School awardees receive a scholarship toward their college or vocational school education
- Boys State – Hands on experience in state political system
- Girls State – Hands on experience in state political system
- LEOs – Leo Clubs established to promote high school experience in Lions
- Project Graduation - Adult-supervised and alcohol-free activities are offered as part of a postgraduation party
- Lone Star Books – purchase of children books for our City Library
- Disaster Relief – as needed for local, state, national, and international disasters
- Thanksgiving Food Baskets – provide holiday food for local needy families
- Operation Santa Claus – provide holiday food and children gifts to local needy families
- Hearing and Vision Screening – annual hearing and vision testing of grade school students in Comal and New Braunfels ISDs
- Bat Cave and FM 2252 Road Clean Up – provide quarterly trash cleanup of selected local roads
- Blood Donations - In conjunction with the City of Garden Ridge, coordinates quarterly blood drives
- Community Service - We support and participate in programs and service projects in our community

## What does it mean to be a Lion?

What does it mean to be a Lion? The question itself should be very simple and easy to answer. But anyone who is part of the Lions Club will tell you many different things about being a Lion. And for each person, it means something different.

- ◆ " It can mean being a part of something to make your community better, helping the environment, cleaning parks, and roadside clean up.
- ◆ " It can mean creating Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for those in need, and wrapping presents for the children.
- ◆ " It can mean cooking in the kitchen preparing healthy meals.
- ◆ " It can mean serving the hungry and other hunger relief efforts.
- ◆ " It can mean collecting bottle caps and making donations to cure childhood cancer.
- ◆ " It can mean collecting eyeglasses and helping children get new glasses to succeed in school.
- ◆ " It can mean going into schools and doing hearing and vision testing.
- ◆ " It can mean helping in diabetic programs, education, and testing.
- ◆ " It can mean reading scholarships applications and awarding \$ for kids to go to school.
- ◆ " It can mean building ramps, fixing train cars or wheelchairs.
- ◆ " It can mean being able to touch people's lives in a different way then you thought possible.

The motto of the Lions club is "We Serve," and if you have a passion for serving your community, then you are in good company. Being a Garden Ridge Lions Club member is something to be proud of.



## Lions Collect Used Eyeglasses

The members of the Garden Ridge Lions Club have accumulated, over the past several months, about 8000 pair of used eyeglasses. The club sorted and packed them for delivery to the Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (TLERC) in Midland, Texas. The TLERC program is in need of used eyeglasses; there are over 1.5 billion, that's billion with a "b," individuals in developing nations that need and can't afford the simplest eye care. We as Lions can do our part in filling this hole by collecting used eyeglasses for recycling. The center will process and distribute the used eyeglasses to needy individuals throughout the world. Once received at TLERC, glasses go through a "First Sort." Since people will not see clearly from severely scratched lenses, these must be sorted out. TLERC will also throw out very worn or broken frames as well. The rest of the first sort consists of separating glasses: prescription from non-prescription, clear from tinted lenses, baby/small child glasses from adult, and "fancy" frames, as well as those with precious metal in them from normal frames.

Finally, the glasses are separated by right eye prescription into single vision or bifocal, near or far-sighted, and then quarter diopters (a diopter is a measurement of the lens strength). Each of these sub-divisions is then placed into special boxes holding about 50 glasses of that prescription. A completed set of all the combinations ready to ship to a mission or clinic around the world would contain about 7600 pairs of glasses. In the end we might have to sort through 50,000 pair of glasses just to come up with one complete set of boxes to ship, because some prescriptions are harder to find than others. So please keep on collecting!

Community residents may deposit unneeded eyeglasses in the Garden Ridge Lions eyeglass collection box located in the Garden Ridge Library. The eyeglasses from our collection box provide improved vision not only for many people but also for our favorite teddy bear.

