



# The Untwisted Tale

of District 12L Tennessee Lions

Website: <http://www.wtnlions.org>



Volume 39 Number 1

July 2009

Editor: PDG William Boughton; Phone: 731-784-4472, Email: [boughtonw@bellsouth.net](mailto:boughtonw@bellsouth.net)

Lions International Web Site: [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)

West Tennessee District 12L Web Site: [www.wtnlions.org](http://www.wtnlions.org)

## Welcome New Lions

Name	Club	Sponsor
Bettie L. Bramlett	Lakeland Lions	Alison Ely
Joe E. Bramlett	Lakeland Lions	Alison Ely
William P. Eastin	Lakeland Lions	Willard King
Louis Narowetz	Selmer Lions	Jerry Youngblood
Sam Vise	Selmer Lions	Jerry Youngblood
Bud Ricketts	Huntingdon Lions	John Radford
Charles Hodges	Huntingdon Lions	Mike Cary
Ralph Townsend	Huntingdon Lions	Carl Byars
Debora Snead	Paris Lions	Gordon Owen

## In Memoriam

Wm Butler - Savannah Lions Club

## District Governor's Schedule:

So far I have 12L Organization meeting on the 18th, I will visit Raleigh on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Germantown on the 28th of July. I will be traveling to the MD12 Council meeting on July 31 and August 1. Then I will be visiting McKenzie on the 10th of August and Bruceton on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Lion John Barnett is coming on the 15th of August thru the 19th to organize a club at Oakland and reorganize the Raleigh club. I need 10 Lions to meet with me & John on the 15th from the MERLO committee and the Lakeland and Germantown clubs for this. If all that can will give me names I will get in touch after a place is scheduled. We will meet most of the day Saturday, after church on Sunday, and most of the day Monday, and canvas on Tuesday and Wednesday.

During this time Lion Barnett will have a Certified Guiding Lions workshop. I will work with clubs on

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

visitation after this and will get my schedule worked up and published.

We are down below 1050 and are going to have to add membership up to 1250 or LCI will combine us with another district.

Nettie and I had a great time at the convention and stayed busy with 3 formal dinners and 5 days of DG training. President Wirfs program is strong and I expect great things for Lionism this year. It is going to take a concerted effort from all Lions to accomplish his Program and I want 12-L to be in the forefront for MD 12. With all your help we can accomplish his and my goals.

Tony Martin DG

## **2010 LIONS LEARNING RETREAT JANUARY 15-17**

**Where: Manchester Conference Center, Manchester, TN**

**FEES ;**

**Register before November 15, 2009- \$95.00**

**After November 15, 2009 - \$105.00**

**Register on site - \$120.00**

**Theme: "GROWING TO MOVE"**

**(MY-SELF, MY-FAMILY, MY-CLUB, MY-COMMUNITY, MY-DISTRICT, MY-STATE, MY-COUNTRY, MY-WORLD) "I CAN, YOU CAN, WE CAN"**

*I have asked several Lions from different states to come and be a speaker, along with a few of our own local Lions. If any one has a suggestion, please get it to me. The applications will be forthcoming in the next month or so. If your club is planning on entering the basket contest, please let Lions Elaine Berkheiser or Nellie Harshbarger know. Any one that would like to furnish a door prize is certainly welcome.*

*I hope you are making plans on attending this workshop-learning retreat. Also, the choir will be there, and if you would like to sing with them, you are welcome to join.*

*Serving others thru Lionism,*

*12S 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG and LLR Chairperson,*

*Linda Justice*

***If any Lion, district wide, especially young in service wants to go to this Learning Retreat the District may pay part of the cost. Please Contact District Governor Tony Martin if you are interested.***



***Meet our 2009-2010 International President: Eberhard Wirfs***  
***He Has West Tennessee connection!***

Every Lion has a story to tell. Eberhard Wirfs could write a book. As a 17-year-old in Germany, he met Elvis, the most famous GI in the world at the time at a Gasthaus (a tavern/restaurant). When Elvis picked up a guitar to strum a soft German folk song, Wirfs accompanied him on piano. “One day I’ll sing a song from Germany for the world,” Elvis assured Wirfs. The King made good on his promise by singing *Wooden Heart*, based on a German folksong, in the 1961 film *G.I. Blues*.

As a young man, after an internship at a U.S. food company that was years ahead of its overseas counterparts in marketing – and only a few miles from Oak Brook – Wirfs took over his father’s small food company in Germany and pioneered a food industry segment in Europe. “We transferred the frozen food concept to Europe and you will find our company wherever people like to eat well out of the home such as at restaurants, airplanes and railway stations,” he proudly explains.

**An Historical Presidency**

Wirfs is making history in another way as the first German president of Lions Clubs International. The Frankfurt area-native – who learned English in school because he wanted to travel and meet people from other cultures – now leads the service association that prides itself on its international character and worldwide appeal.

Our new president relishes his membership because hands-on service stirs his soul. “As a Lion you are asked for help. As a Lion you are needed. If somebody is needed, he is able to contribute,” he says. “This enriches our life. Sometimes with only a little money, but much more with your hands, you give the help that is needed. It’s not only satisfying, it’s important. It’s important as a citizen to have this kind of responsibility in the world.”

**Early Hardship**

A Lions pin was the linchpin for Wirfs’ becoming a Lion. In 1985, he met with a friend. “And he always wears his pin. And one day I ask him what is this? I did not know,” recounts Wirfs. The friend invited him to the Hofheim AM Taunus Lions Club and Wirfs soon was wearing his own pin.

Wirfs’ club took a special interest in those with multiple sclerosis. Lions provided a van for them and treated them to a daylong boat trip on the shimmering Rhein River. “It was like Christmas for them. They were so happy to be out on a beautiful day,” recalls Wirfs. Being around those with a disability deepened his appreciation for the tenacity of the human spirit.

Wirfs was born in 1942. His father was a medical officer. Evacuating Frankfurt during the war, Wirf’s mother took her three young children to a farm. “It was a very bad time – hungry and just barely able to get by,” he says. “My mother was alone, with her three children. She worked very hard just to get her kids out of hunger.”

In his travels today, Wirfs can’t bear to pass by hungry children. “If Eberhard has no food or drink to give him, he maybe touches his hand. We heard it’s not a good idea to give a child money. It’s better to give him love,” says Margit, his wife.

**A Lions Leader**

As a Lion, Wirfs was a quick learner. In a short span, he progressed to become a Lions leader in Germany and

then worldwide. He served as club president, zone and region chairperson, district governor and council chairperson before being elected in 2002 in Osaka, Japan, for a two-year term as an international director.

One of Wirfs' major achievements was helping implement Lions Quest in Germany. "It's an anti-drug program," says Wirfs. "It's also a program to learn to say no. To say NO to drugs. To say NO to bad behavior. To say NO to negative influence. And Lions Quest is to be seen from my point of view as a core program of Lions Clubs International in the future."

### **Move to Grow**

The overarching theme of Wirfs presidency will be "***MOVE TO GROW.***" Lions need momentum, or movement, to grow and progress. Nothing that remains motionless moves forward. Progress grows from purposeful movement.

Lions are poised to serve as no other organization can. "There are many things you can't do with money. You need manpower. That's what we have," says Wirfs. "We are really good at getting results."

## ***WE SERVE***

---

West Tennessee Lions District 12L The Untwisted Tale Editor: PDG William Boughton 2905 Vine Street Humboldt, TN 38343
---