

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA LIONS CLUB HISTORY

Charter date: November 22, 1921

Organized by: R.C. Gage

First President: Judge W.G. Miser

First Secretary: John A. Boland

First Treasurer: John A. Boland

Organized with 46 members

Longest serving members (as of November, 2001):

Dr. John Schwietert - 51 years

Ep Howe - 48 years

Orland Paulsen - 44 years

Bob Haskell - 40 years (sponsored over 50 new members)

OUTSTANDING ACTIVITIES

- 1928-1929 Attempted to secure a swimming pool for Rapid City. Organized Lions Club Quartet.
- 1931-1932 Paid salary of a nurse who attended a girl suffering with paralysis. Entered a team in the city basketball tournament. Financed third visit of a Blind girl to Shriner's hospital in Minneapolis. Sponsored a kittenball League in Rapid City. Sponsored a Lion's Club in Edgemont.
- 1941-1942 Met with two other service clubs at CCC camp where boys demonstrated tree planting, fire fighting, and later served dinner. Host to delegation from Belle Fourche Lion's Club. Held club picnic. Entertained Club sponsored Boy Scout Troop 3(sponsored for 25 years.) Held Club Christmas party Where gifts were exchanged and later given to needy children, Contributed \$25.00 worth of groceries and clothing to a needy family. Observed Founders Week. Established a student loan fund. Sponsored a boy to Boy's State. Donated to Girl Scout camp. Established a Convention Fund and sold A calf donated to the club and realized \$5.00 for the fund. Host to School of Mines Glee Club.
- 1951-1952 Host to State Convention. Held a flimily picnic. Held 30th anniversary Charter celebration. Held a Christmas party. Lowell Shuck was president In 1956.
- 1961-1962 Sponsored a baseball game between two professional teams and rented the park for the night as a fund raising activity for the sight conservation committee. Purchased two pairs of glasses and several eye exams. Purchased 23 Christmas baskets and distributed to needy families. Rang Christmas bells for the Salvation Army and raised \$131.00. (The Club does this every year). Held Ladies night and Christmas party. Boy Scout troop sponsored by the Club participated in an exposition. Established a blood bank for Club Members and indigent persons. Sponsored and paid for the sophomore hop. Boy Scout awards and recognition ceremony held

with a Court of Honor. Sponsored a girl in the local beauty pageant. Living Club Presidents from the 1960's are Ep Howe-1967, Orland Paulsen-1969.

- 1971-1972 Halloween candy sales campaign started. Club sold candy for thirty years. Sold packaged meats as a fund raiser. Donated \$100.00 towards city-wide Cleanup campaign. Paid **\$252.45** for eye doctor services in seven different Needy cases. Paid \$200.00 for Lion's statue in front of Sight and Service Building in Sioux Falls. Paid \$450.00 in support of Boy Scout Troop 3. Processed funds for 170 cases of Sight & Service activities. Gave \$10,000.00 To Black Hills Area Council of the Boy Scouts for the Medicine Mountain Scout Camp.
- 1974-1979 Membership at 110 members. Club hosted 100 Regina Junior Lions and Their chaperones. The community was asked to house them for ten days. With the help of other Lion's Clubs, built the kitchen for the Boy's Club. The Club has been a donor to the Boy's Club every year since, donating \$1000.00 in 2001. The Zone eye care committee was organized. Established an annual donation to Ski for Light. Club becomes a 100% Supporter of the Lion's Foundation. Raised over \$40,000.00 for an eye bank in Rapid City. Living Club Presidents from the 1970's are Bob Haskell-1972, Charlie Whisler-1973, Dr. John Schwietert-1979.
- 1981-1982 George Brown Club president for the first time. Visited Bufftlo Lion's Club Barbecue. Sold light bulbs, meat, and Halloween candy. Endorsed Orland Paulsen for District Governor. Held a ladies night. Donated \$380.00 to Ski for Light. Ticket raffle net \$1500.00.
- 1982-1983 Had a booth at Central States fair where 42 eye donor cards were obtained. Bought and donated a Ford Van to the Girl's Club. Sold light bulbs. Held a Ladies night. Raised \$355.00 ringing bells for Salvation Army. Tom Hennies Was President.
- 1983-1984 Ladies night dinner attended by District Governor Jack Hoshino.
1984-1985 Completed candy sales. Conducted child identification project which was Jointly sponsored and underwritten by the Pepsi Cola Co. and Kmart.
- 1985-1986 Purchased Disney drug film for \$500.00 to be used in the public schools. Members participated in the distribution and solicitation of the United Way Of Rapid City campaign. Dennis Schaar was the Lion's representative on the United Way Board of Directors. Contributed funds for a Halloween party for children. Members assisted senior citizens with Christmas shopping at Kmart. Assisted with the child identification project. Participated in annual Rapid City clean-up project. Bill Fakier and Bob Sabin participated in the Journey for Sight. The proceeds of \$250.00 went to the Sight and Service Committee. George Gladfelter was President in 1986.
- 1986-2001 Club has sponsored 10 Lion's Clubs over the past 25 years, and one Leo's Club. Has been District 5SW Club of the year 3 thnes. Has nurtured 6 District Governors. Awarded 8 Melvin Jones Fellow awards, and has 8 Life members. Have hosted District and Multi-

District Conventions in Rapid City. Club has sponsored Century rides and clinics for diabetes Awareness. Placed Lion's fountain in Story Book island. In 1999, we assisted other Club's in building a Habitat for Humanity house in Rapid City. Some of the Club's fund raisers have included saddle sales for the Bad Lands Circuit Finals rodeo, 50-50 ticket sales at the rodeo, light bulbs sales, candy sales, meat sales, calendar sales, pancake feeds, and raffles. Past presidents who are current members are Dean Reichert-1987, George Brown-1988, Bob Drabek-1991, Kenroy Janzen-1992, Bruce Thalacker-1993, Dr. Gregg Drabek-1994, Bruce Thalacker-1995, Dennis Meier-1996, George Brown-1998, Ray Dvorak-1999, and Geri Drabek-2000. For 76 of our 80 years, we Met at the Alex Johnson hotel in Rapid City.

November 6, 2001