

# THE INSIDER

October 2003, Volume 10, Issue 10



## A HEARTY WALK

Congratulations to the 36 Lions Clubs International (LCI) employees, family and friends who participated in the American Heart Walk at the College of DuPage on Sunday, September 14. The morning walk started out in brisk weather and ended in a downpour. However, members of the LCI group enjoyed themselves and managed to raise approximately \$4,700, which will go to the American Heart Association's efforts in fighting heart disease and stroke.

This year, LCI's group was composed of four teams. Team 1 consisted of **Michelle Bell** (team captain), English Language; Michelle Bell's husband, Sean, mother, Nancy and mother-in-law, Hope; **Carole Bodestab**, New Clubs & Marketing; **Kim Hugo**, Finance Division; **Jenny Rasch**, Stat. & Membership; Jenny Rasch's husband, Dan; and **Maryellen Skerik**, Finance Division. Team 2 consisted of **Jeff Godar** (team captain), Building Services; **Linda Freeman**, Club Supplies Shipping; Linda Freeman's husband, Steven, son, Maurice and family friend Melinda; **Cindy Richert**, Club Supplies Shipping; Cindy Richert's husband, Bill; **Gloria Skurkis**, Club Supplies Shipping; Gloria Skurkis' husband, Brian, nephew, Steven, niece, Nicky, and friends, Nicole and Greg; and **Karen Williams**, Accounting. Team 3 consisted of **Kristopher Kempski** (team captain), Public Relations; **Chris Cygan**, Public Relations; Chris Cygan's son, Darin; **Christy Jacobs**, Graphics; and Christy Jacobs' husband, Jeff. Team 4 consisted of **Bill Pinter**, Youth Programs, Bill Pinter's wife, Sandra, and daughter, Amanda; **Zita Cienas**, Youth Programs; **Denise Whistler**, Youth Programs; Denise Whistler's son, Keith; and **Aurelia Young**, Travel & Administrative Services.

This year, LCI's top earner was Darin, son of Chris Cygan, Public Relations. Darin volunteered his time and efforts and was able to raise \$1,628 for the LCI team.

For more information on the American Heart Association, please visit their Web site at [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org).

## WELCOME

**Scott Drumheller**, West Chicago, General Counsel, ext. 300

**Frances Jansen**, Lombard, Travel & Administrative Services, ext. 241

**Cynthia Meyer**, Oak Brook, International Activities, ext. 287

**Jennifer Sydney**, Chicago, LCIF Humanitarian Programs, ext. 660

## ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following staff members who are celebrating an employment anniversary:

**Cindy Richert**, Club Supplies Shipping, 15 years on October 3

**Renee Aubin**, Convention, 15 years on October 31

## OFFICE DIRECTORY

### UPDATE

Please make the following changes in your Office Directory:

**Mike Fagin**, Export Traffic, ext. 267

**Judi Kukula**, Extension & Membership, ext. 304

**Maureen Stenson**, Membership Programs, ext. 390

## INSIDER POLL

### If you could be somewhere else right now, where would it be?

Please e-mail your answers to Kristopher Kempfski, Public Relations.

The following is in response to last month's Insider poll.

### What is the most interesting/fun thing you did this summer?

"I just got back from California and I finally got to Hollywood. I felt like such a kid being there in front of Mann's Chinese Theater, going to the Hollywood Museum, going to the Wax Museum, and seeing all the places I have only ever seen on TV!"

**-Barbara Henderson,**

Club Supplies Sales

## MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER

If you missed the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in August and the American Heart Walk in September – don't worry. There is still another opportunity to participate in a walk that supports the medical research community. The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk will take place on Sunday, October 19 at Grant Park. The 5-mile walk along the lakefront is run by the American Cancer Society and has no minimum donation requirement.

Since 1972, the American Cancer Society has donated more than \$185 million in grants specifically for breast cancer research. This investment has paid off in education, research, the discovery of new drugs, access to mammograms and an Illinois breast cancer death rate that declined 20% between 1991 and 1999.

For more information on the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, contact Kristopher Kempfski, Public Relations.

## BIRTHDAYS

10/2	Irene Wisniowicz	Club Supplies & Distribution
10/4	Yvonne Novak	LCIF Donor & Financial Services
10/4	Linda Tonetti	Data Control
10/5	Dale Smith	Inventory Control
10/7	Michael Fagin	Export Traffic
10/7	Joanne Janson	Travel & Administrative Services
10/10	Chris Cygan	Public Relations
10/10	Mindy Marks	New Clubs & Marketing
10/11	Laura Delgado	Budget & Auditing
10/11	Helen Kowalczyk	Treasurer's Office
10/13	Michelle Kopec	Club Supplies Sales
10/15	Jerry Mecklenburg	Print Shop
10/16	Mary Ann Kusinski	New Clubs & Marketing
10/16	Robin Martinec	Club Supplies Sales
10/18	Lucy Martellotta	Youth Programs
10/18	Wayne McPherson	Information Systems
10/21	Dennis Kline	Export Traffic
10/21	Nicolette Donofrio	Club Supplies Sales
10/21	Jim Chylka	Export Traffic
10/22	Rose Garcia	Club Supplies Shipping
10/23	Aurelia Young	Travel & Administrative Services
10/23	Angela Sass	Club Supplies Sales
10/24	Becky Maiman	Information Systems
10/26	Arlene Bozis	Export Traffic
10/26	Karen Antonacci	Export Traffic
10/29	Karen Williams	Accounting
11.29	Diane Suchy	LCIF Donor & Financial Services
10/31	Louise Ventrella	Institute & Seminars

## GREAT NEWS FOR FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT PARTICIPANTS!

Over the counter drugs are now eligible as reimbursable medical expenses and can be paid for with pre-tax dollars through your Health Flexible Spending Account.

On September 3, 2003, the Treasury Department and the IRS announced that reimbursements of employee health expenses that are non-prescription drugs, including reimbursements through Health Flexible Spending Accounts, are excluded from income.

It is believed that this new ruling will increase participation in the plan, because now employees have a simple way to use up any funds remaining in their account before the end of the plan year. This could remove the "use it or lose it" stigma associated with Flexible Spending Accounts.

Another immediate benefit of this ruling is that employees with valid receipts and documentation for qualifying over the counter drugs purchased prior to 9/3 and within the plan year can submit claims for those expenses.

As always, any medicines used to promote general health such as supplements, vitamins and herbal remedies are not eligible. The key wording is "...to alleviate or treat personal injuries or sickness..." Pain relievers, allergy medications, antacids and cold remedies qualify under the new ruling, while vitamins and toothpaste do not, since neither items "alleviate or treat personal injuries or sickness."

Finally, when filing a claim you must still attach proper receipts and documentation.

*-Submitted by Sharon Aleksunas, Human Resources*



## PICNIC 2003

Employees enjoy the annual Lions Clubs International (LCI) employee picnic, held on Friday, September 12, in the northwest corner of the LCI parking lot.



## NEWS BRIEFS

- In accordance with established policy, the office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28, in observance of Thanksgiving

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

- Congratulations to **Jan Umbenhowe**, Youth Programs, this month's winner of movie tickets from the Employee Activities Committee.
- Congratulations to **Marthe Jean**, Eurafrican, this month's winner of the reserved employee parking spot.
- Congratulations to Barry Partridge, son of **Tina Bowden**, Leadership Division, and his pool partner, Laura Bendikas, on winning first place in the APA 8-Ball Doubles National Championship. Their team, Poultry Power, traveled to Las Vegas to beat out 255 other teams and take home the \$5,000 prize.
- Best wishes to Andrew, son of **Karen Curran**, Budget & Auditing, who recently enlisted in the United States Marine Corp at San Diego, California. He will be working as a field artillery fire direction/control specialist. After basic training, Andrew will be stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
- Congratulations to the three first place winners of the Guess the LCI Baby Contest held at the LCI picnic; **Eva Sitek** (Convention Services & Meeting Logistics) **Tomoko Castillo** and **Mika Sato-Foley** (both of Pacific Asian). Each of them guessed four out of seven correctly and won a pair of AMC movie tickets.

## ASK HUMAN RESOURCES

**I cover my child under our group health plan. He just turned 23 years old, but is a full-time student. May I still cover him under our plan?**

You may only cover unmarried children who are under the age 23. Whether or not the child is still a student is not considered. The coverage for unmarried children will end on the last day of the month in which the limiting age of 23 is reached.

Once your covered child turns age 23 you must notify the Human Resources Department. Upon notification, your child will be offered the option to continue his coverage through COBRA. A packet of information regarding this benefit will be mailed to your child.

**I've lost my medical and dental cards, how do I get new cards?**

You may obtain replacement cards by contacting customer service and providing them with your social security number. Cards will be sent to you within 7-10 business days. The numbers to call are listed below:

BCBS PPO Plan	1-800-327-8497
BCBS HMO Plan	1-800-892-2803

Please submit your questions to Sharon Aleksiuinas, Human Resources.



## ATTENTION SHOPPERS: SIGHT NIGHT COMING SOON

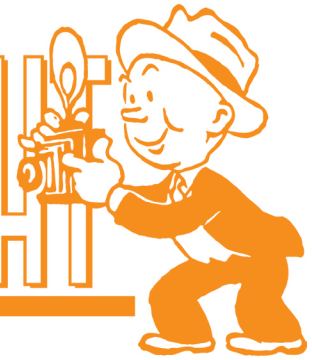
Have you noticed a Sight Night advertisement on your grocery cart the last few weeks? Donated ads have appeared on carts in approximately 10,000 stores - reaching 750 million people! It is one of many promotions for the Sight Night collection of used eyeglasses this Halloween sponsored by LensCrafters and Lions Clubs International.

Interested in participating in this year's collection or know of someone who is? Visit [www.sightnight.org](http://www.sightnight.org) or call 1-877-605-4242. It is a frightfully fun time!

## ABOUT THE INSIDER

The Insider is a newsletter for Lions Clubs International Headquarters' employees. It is published and posted on the intranet once a month. Employees are encouraged to submit news items such as story ideas, department happenings, births, weddings, anniversaries, awards received or any other information regarding International Headquarters' employees or their families to Kristopher Kempinski, Public Relations Department, at ext. 371 or by e-mail. **The deadline for submitting information for the November issue is Tuesday, October 7.**

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**HELEN KOWALCZYK**

**Executive Assistant  
Treasurer's Office**

**Year started at LCI**

1982

**Job duties**

Communicate with banks, create prepaid spreadsheets, compose letters, schedule meetings and prepare cost per country reports

**Education**

Associate Degree in Accounting

**Hometown**

Hillside, Illinois

**Family**

Husband Stan, daughter Melonie, two cats Scarlett and Tara, and our dog Sugar

**If I were in the witness relocation program, my new name would be**

Stella Smith

**Something people would be surprised to know about me is:**

I was born in England. My trip to Taiwan with the Lions International Convention prompted me to become a U.S. citizen.

**Most unusual item in my cubicle**

Almost everything is Lions related, but I do have a plant that's still green!

**If I could be someone else for a day, I'd be**

21 years old and I would know what I know now

**My very first car was a**

1976 Buick Skyhawk

**If I weren't working at LCI, I would be**

An interior decorator

**In my free time I**

Enjoy my family, my friends, reading, baking, playing cards and doing puzzles

**If I could only eat one food for the rest of my life, it would be**

Chocolate

**Last good movie I went to was**

"Pirates of the Caribbean"

**My dream vacation is**

Anywhere with mountains, blue skies and palm trees

**Favorite book**

Anything by John Grisham

**Favorite television show**

Anything on HGTV

**Favorite cartoon**

"Beetlejuice"

**Favorite song**

Too many to list – I like R&B, rock and country

**If there were a movie about me, I would want to be played by**

Sophia Loren

**The four guests at my fantasy dinner party would be**

All of my grandparents

**My "Claim to Fame" is**

Being featured in two newspaper articles as a working mom

**The title of my autobiography would be**

"Life is Too Short"