

“I finally found myself-when I lost myself-  
In the service of others.”

Mahatma Gandhi

The above quote pretty much sums up my life as a Lion. I joined the Loma Rica Foothill Lions Club in 1992. Mainly because of my father and because it was basically the only watering hole within 20 miles of my Bangor home! The club membership at that time was mainly Charter members (men) and women were finally being accepted for membership.

During my induction ceremony of I wills, I do's and I can's, Lion Gary Williamson stood up and gave a brief history of Lions; Melvin Jones, Helen Keller, Knights of the Blind, etc. I seriously did not know anything about Lions International until that moment! I went home and read my entire new member packet and the fire was lit!

I love our motto, WE SERVE. I love our acronym LIONS—LIBERTY, INTELLEGENGE, OUR NATIONS SAFTY. I love the fact that we serve our communities needs first, and that is why there is a Lions Club in almost every city and town.

That being said, of course we jumped right out of that box when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. Our concern was that long after the media moved on the devastation would still be overwhelming and these people would need long term help. Our intent was to come in a year after the disaster with some relief. Thus, The Blues Festival was born! We have sent money to Biloxi MS, Greensburg KS, Concow, CA, and although we no longer have the Blues, we do have concerts in the park which enabled us to take \$3000 to Middletown CA last year after their devastating fire! Oh, and we give our donations to the Lion Club of the town nearest the disaster to distribute as they see fit!

On the home front I am know for my “hair brained” ideas, (treasurer's cringe when I say “I was thinking...”), but we have done some spectacular projects! The Veterans Memorial Gazebo, the Veterans Wall of Honor, the women's bathroom, and in turn the men's bathroom! I am amazed at the talent of our membership who bring these projects to life and maintain our clubhouse and grounds for our community to enjoy.

Nothing is sweeter to me than driving into the Loma Rica Foothill Lions Community Center parking lot and seeing a few children playing in our park, and a couple of moms or dads sitting at a picnic table in the shade relaxing, enjoying the fruits of our labor, while I go into the bar for a cocktail with friends and start thinking.....

Linda Saala  
Loma Rica Foothill Lion President, 2017/2018