

HISTORY
of the
BAKERSFIELD BREAKFAST LIONS CLUB

CHAPTER I
1958-59

"In the beginning Man created Lions International.
Men saw that it was good and they joined and con-
tinued to join...."

In May, 1958, twenty seven members of the Bakersfield Cirgonian Club decided that they wanted a club that gave more than friendship alone. Led by Lion Adrian Bellinger of the Bakersfield Host Club and Manuel Dias, among others, the Cirgonian Club petitioned Lions International to charter the group as the Bakersfield Breakfast Lions Club, the first breakfast Lions Club in District 4-A2. After several organizational meetings with representatives of Lions International, the Bakersfield Breakfast Lions Club was chartered as a member of Lions International on June 20, 1958, at a meeting held at the Bakersfield Inn. In addition to the Cirgonian Club members, three others had been added until the charter included these 30 names:

Adrian U. Bellinger
M. F. Alexander
Ray C. Fanning
Harry McCarson
Lewis E. Schuyler
Billy Phillips
Mike Dellastrito
William Godair
Marvin R. Hitt
John C. Kern

Frank E. McKeown
L. Jack Wiener
Wm. J. Price, Jr.
Bill T. White
David G. Parker
Al Johnson
Russell Lusk
Frank Souza, Jr.
Walter O. Laird
Taylor J. Moore

Edward M. Alsop
Noeth B. Gillette
Henry J. Hatton
Jack Brackeen
Richard B. Cotten
Chas. A. Fussell
Thomas H. Underhill
Lee C. Tillman
Manuel G. Dias
Jordan C. Martin

The Charter was signed by then International President Edward G. Barry, and Arkansas Power and Light Company executive, and by R. Roy Keaton, Director-General of Lions International.

At the Charter Night ceremonies at the Bakersfield Inn, Lion Al Eagler, Past International Director, was installing officer, and Lion Al Dewire, past president of the Downtown (Host) Bakersfield Lions, was master of ceremonies. Other notables in attendance that evening were: District Four Executive Secretary Lyman W. Theal and wife, International Counsellor Ken Lolmaugh, Arpin, and wife, District Governor Nick C. Dailey, Delano, and wife, Deputy District Governor Gus Sorci, East Bakersfield, and wife, and Zone Chairman Jim Kinaley, South Bakersfield, and wife.

Other visitors were Lion and Mrs. Gene Fuerbringer, Delano, Lion and Mrs. James Walker, Delano, Lion and Mrs. Tony Miller, East Bakersfield, Lion and Mrs. Dan Bennage, Host Club, Lion and Mrs. Ralph Pitney, Arvin, Lion and Mrs. Bob Coryalnik, Host Club, Lion Tom Cox and daughter Betty Jo, Host Club, Lion and Mr. Harold Matty, Lion and Mrs. Terry Finnegan, Host Club, incoming District Governor James Hopper, North Fresno, and District 4-A2 Newsletter Editor John Joplin, South Bakersfield.

Officers installed at the Charter Night were:

PRESIDENT	William T. White
1st V. P.	David G. Parker
2nd V.P.	Lee C. Tillman
3rd V. P.	Al Johnson
Sect-Treas.	Taylor J. Moore
Lion Tamer	Manuel Dias
Tail Twister	Russell Lusk

Directors:

Walter Ol Laird	Frank Souza, Jr.
Edward M. Alsop	Jordan C. Martin

Regular meetings began immediately at the El Tejon Hotel on Wednesday mornings at 6:45 a.m. and were continued there for some two months until the cold biscuits brought on talk of moving. The Club then moved to Tops Restaurant, 18th and Eye Streets, still eating on Wednesday mornings.

During June, 1958, a Club bulletin was begun, edited by David G. Parker, then 1st Vice President. The name "Lions Reveille" was suggested by Parker and no other names were mentioned, so the new bulletin was named.

In the fall of 1958 the first money-raising project was undertaken, a light bulb sale, held in conjunction with other Lions Clubs in the area. The Breakfast Club drew the Oildale and North-of-the-River territory and had to work many, many evenings to sell the frosted filaments. Some \$700.00 was finally realized from the sale, but the members were quite weary and have never taken on a light bulb project since then.

As another project a Carwash was held in September at Lion Charles Anderson's Richfield Station at 24th and F Streets, with some \$170.00 cleared.

During the first year the Club participated in these activities: the Student Speaker Contest, John Joplin, chairman, donated to the Kern County Braille Center, sponsored Boy Scout Troop # 4 and an Explorer Post, held joint meetings with Westchester and Hillcrest Lions, and sent delegates to the District Four, California-Nevada and the District 4-A2 Conventions.

New members taken in during the 1958-59 Lions year included: Wilbert L. Highfield, Jr., Patrick H. Bradley, John D. Joplin (transfer from South Bakersfield), Charles W. Anderson, E. J. Pair, Dr. Jack N. Frost, Tom D. Stockton, James B. Chambers, Richard B. Thurber, and Raymond K. Liner.

Members who dropped by the wayside for various reasons during the year were: Nick Trombetta, Ken Davis, James Jacobs, George Pope, Arthur Sieman, James Vanderpool, Henry J. Hatton, Frank Souza, Jr., William Godair, Marvin Hitt, Noeth Gillette, Kenneth Thompson, Richard B. Cotton, Edward Alsop, Adrian Bellinger (dropped dual membership and returned solely to the Host Club), Charles A. Fussell, Manuel Dias, Harry McCarson, and William J. Price, Jr.

Transfer Charter Member John D. Joplin served District 4-A2 during the year as Newsletter Editor.

C

O

P

Y

CHAPTER II
1959-60

As the second year began, the Club still met at the Tops Restaurant, which during the year just completed had been sold, and was now called the Robin Hood. The best service and meals yet experienced by the Club were received at the Robin Hood, largely due to the special efforts of a waitress Muriel Sauter.

Officers elected to head the Club for 1959-60 were installed at a Charter-Installation dinner held at the Robin Hood. They were:

PRESIDENT	David G. Parker
Immed. Past. Pres.	
Immed. Past. Pres.	William T. White
1st V. P.	Lee C. Tillman
2nd V. P.	Al Johnson
3rd V. P.	John D. Joplin
Sect-Treas.	Taylor J. Moore
Lion Tamer	Jack Brackeen
Tail Twister	Ray C. Fanning
Directors	
Jordan C. Martin	Frank McKeown
Patrick H. Bradley	Charles W. Anderson

After turning down the light bulb sale project, the Club took on White Cane Days with half a kit purchased from South Bakersfield, a Carwash, and a White Elephant Raffle with merchandise furnished by members and auctioned off sight unseen at a regular meeting.

Activities of the Club included donations to the Kern County Braille Center, a donation to the Epilepsy Workshop, joint purchase with other Lions Clubs of a registered Hereford Bull for use by Junior Hereford Breeders Association members, the sponsoring of Boy Scout Troop # 4, participating in the Safety Economy Run for high school students, the Student Speaker Contest with Lewis E. Schuyler, chairman, two joint meetings with Delano Lions, a visit to the Charter Night of the Fresno Breakfast Lions Club, painting of the Boy Scout Tank (meeting place for Boy Scouts and other groups), hosting of the Southern Region Student Speaker Contest, sponsoring of a J.B.A. team, and sending of delegates to District Four and District 4-A2 Conventions.

Our bulletin, Lions Reveille, was edited by John D. Joplin, and was adjudged the best in District Four, California-Nevada. Joplin also served District 4-A2 as Public Relations & Director.

A scrapbook edited by Charles W. Anderson won first place for Clubs of our size in the District 4-A2 competition.

In the middle of the year the Club members voted to move the meetings to Thursday mornings at 6:45 a.m. instead of Wednesday.

During the year 1959-60 these new members joined the Breakfast Club: Anthony T. Sullivan, Moss Henken, Donald Frankeberger, Norman K. Allen, Leo Barber, William M. Bloom, Thomas J. Jennings, Robert J. McDermott, Mark Duncan, George J. Siebes, Dr. James W. Weinberger, and Dr. Gaylord P. Benson.

Leaving the Club for assorted reasons were: Mike Dallestritto, Patrick H. Bradley, James B. Chambers, Walter O. Laird, Malcolm F. Alexander, John C. Kern, Al Johnson, Robert J. McDermott, Jordan C. Martin, William M. Bloom, Jack Brackeen, Russell Lusk, E. J. Pair, and William T. White (moved from Bakersfield).

C
O
P
Y

CHAPTER III
1960-61

Before the third Lions year was over, the Lakersfield Breakfast Club was to gain a dubious reputation as regards meeting places. Shortly after the beginning of the year, the Robin Hood burned up and the Club moved to Cindy's at the corner of 18th and Chester Avenue. Shortly thereafter, the kitchen at Cindy's burned out and bankrupt the operator, so a temporary move was made to the Elks Club, with a couple of meetings at the El Tejon Hotel, before settling down at DiRico's, 508 - 18th Street, a newly opened place operated by Lion Art DiRico of the Host Club. Charter-Installation Night was held at the Hacienda when these men took office:

PRESIDENT	John D. Joplin
Immed. Past Pres.	David G. Parker
1st V. P.	Ray C. Fanning
2nd V. P.	Billy Phillips
3rd V. P.	Thomas H. Underhill
Sect-Treas.	Taylor J. Moore
Lion Tamer	Richard Thurber
Tail Twister	Lewis E. Schuyler
Directors	
Leo Barber	Don Frankeberger
L. Jack Wiener	Charles W. Anderson

As the year began, Richard Thurber took over as bulletin editor, but after two months he was forced to drop from the Club and John Joplin completed the year as editor.

Money-raising efforts during the Lions year included the first annual Cracker Jack Days which netted \$600.00, a sale of cans of candy, a Carwash, and the White Elephant Raffle.

Activities participation included a donation to the Kern County Braille Center, donation to the Epilepsy Workshop, high school Safety Economy Run, the purchases of glasses for an indigent painter, a family picnic, promotion of a Kern County Tennis Tournament, the purchases of bleachers for the J.D. A. in lieu of sponsoring a team, the purchase of trees for a Lions Grove at Lake Ming, the Student Speaker Contest with Mark Duncan, chairman, helping purchase a film on Malline the dope detector, the payment for six months schooling for a blind six-year-old girl, sponsoring of Boy Scout Troop # 4, and sending delegates to District Four and District 4-A2 Conventions.

During this year the ladies of our Lions organized at the Belles of the Breakfast Lions with Colleen Parker as the first President.

Our scrapbook won first place in District 4-A2 competition and placed second to Fort Bragg in District Four competition.

Lion John Joplin served District 4-A2 as Resolutions Chairman this year.

New members added during the year were: Donald C. West, Bruce O. Doolittle, James Scott Butler, Glen T. Calvin, Glen A. Wenter, Kenneth Beavers, Thomas F. Kennedy, H. Eugene Muzum, Clement A. Wildenauer, Marvin H. Hitt, and Richard Alexander.

Falling by the wayside were: Charles W. Anderson, Anthony Sullivan, Lee C. Tillman, Frank H. McKeown, George J. Siebes, Richard Alexander, Raymond K. Liner, Richard B. Thurber, Mark Duncan, and Bruce O. Doolittle.

C
O
P
Y

CHAPTER IV
1961-62

Our Club reputation, in regards to putting eating places out of business, held up this year. DiRico's closed, and when we sent Lion Glen Calvin to talk to the Sands Motel coffee shop about meeting there, the place went into the hands of receivers that day! We ended up at the Caravan Inn where Westchester and East Bakersfield also met. At an Installation-Charter night at Maison Jausseaud's officers for the fourth year took over:

C

PRESIDENT	Ray C. Fanning
Immed Past Pres.	John D. Joplin
1st Vice Pres.	Billy Phillips
2nd Vice Pres.	Tom Underhill
3rd Vice Pres.	(James Weinberger (Tom D. Stockton
Sect.- Exec	Taylor J. Moore
Treasurer	Lewis E. Schryler
Lion Tamer	Donald C. West
Mail Twister	Buddy Highfield
	Directors:
Glen Calvin	Glen Wenter
Leo Barber	Donald Frankeberger

O

For his second year, Past President Dave Parker took over as editor of the Reveille and did a fine job all year.

Our only money-raising project of this year was the Second Annual Cracker Jack Days which was held in October. We realized only \$300.00 because members failed to support the project as had been expected.

P

During the Lions year we again contributed \$100.00 to the Kern County Bra-ille Center, and \$100.00 to the Epilepsy Workshop, participated in the Safety Economy Run for high students where Lion John Joplin acted as M/C at the luncheon following the Run. We again participated in the J.B.A. program by sponsoring a team, and our Student Speaker Contest was held at a ladies night at the Airport Cafe with Lion Glen Calvin as chairman.

Y

Delegates were sent to District Four and District 4-A2 Conventions as in all previous years.

Lion John Joplin served District 4-A2 as Zone Chairman of Zone 3, Southern Region. At a training session in Tulare, Lion Joplin asked the question as to why Bakersfield, or any city in District 4-A2, had ~~xxx~~ never bid for the California-Nevada District Four Convention. No one had an answer. Shortly thereafter Joplin contacted District Four for requirements of a bidding city, got the Best Club to move as bidding Club, and with the cooperation of all Clubs in the area a bid was prepared, with generous help from the Convention Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce. At Disneyland in January, 1962, the delegates picked Bakersfield as the site of the 1964 convention over bids from Las Vegas, San Diego, and Palm Springs.

During this Lions year we added new members William S. Foulkes, George J. Siebes (a returning former member), and dropped these members for various reasons: Dr. Gaylord P. Benson, Dr. James W. Weinberger, L. Jack Weiner, Dr. Jack H. Frost, Marvin R. Hitt, Wilbert L. Highfield, Jr., Billy T. Phillips, and Taylor J. Moore.

CHAPTER V
1962-63

This year opened after Installation-Charter Night at the Caravan Inn where we were meeting at that time. Shortly after July 1, 1962, new owners took over the Caravan Inn and raised our costs for meals so that by November 1, 1962, we began to shop around and then moved to Arthurs' at the Holiday House, 2300 So. Union Avenue. At this time (January, 1963) Arthurs has turned in his lease and Lamplighter Motels, Inc. have taken over and we don't know what our status is! Officers leading the Club for this Lions year are:

PRESIDENT	Tom D. Stoerton
Immed. Past Pres.	Ray C. Fanning (Resigned 12-31-62)
1st Vice Pres	Glen Wenter
2nd Vice Pres	Donald Franksberger
3rd Vice Pres	Donald C. West
Sect.-Treas.	John D. Joplin
Lion Tamer	H. Eugene Ruzum
Tail Twister	Tom Kennedy
Directors:	
Glen Calvin	Clem Wildenauer
Dr. Gaylord Benson	
(Tom Jennings resigned, Geo. Siebes moved)	

Our only project to date was the Third Annual Cracker Jack Days held in October when we raised \$378.00. We have donated \$100.00 to the Kern County Brailled Center, furnished a lighted cane to a blind lady, donated \$25.00 to the American Field Service student exchange program, and made a donation to the Lions of Okinawa through the Operation Friendship project of District Four.

Delegates are being sent to District Four Convention at San Francisco, our Student Speaker Contest is set for February 28 with students from Bakersfield's newest high school, Foothill High. A joint meeting has been set for February 21 with East Bakersfield, South Bakersfield, Westchester, and College Heights.

At this time during the year we have taken in these new members: Dr. Gaylord P. Benson (reinstatement), Arthur P. DiRico, George D. Watkins, Eugene Ryall, T.W. "Ted" Hand.

Dropped from the roster thus far this year are: Thomas J. Jennings, Leo Barber, Arthur P. DiRico, George J. Siebes, Ray C. Fanning, and Don Franksberger.

"The moving finger writes, and having writ, moves on;
Not all your piety or wit can call it back to cancel
half a line, Nor all your tear wash out a word of it."

C
O
P
Y