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# Volunteering Sets Lions Apart

by PDG Stan Carlson

Has anyone ever asked why you joined a Lions/Lioness Club? If they did, what was your answer? Maybe it was "to meet new people" or "to enjoy fun and fellowship." Or maybe you wanted to join with a friend or a family member. Networking with others in your business or profession could be another reason. Or maybe it was "to be a volunteer."

When people enter the military, they are told by others who already wore the uniform, never, ever volunteer for anything! To this day, I still remember that warning. But if you really stop to think about it, that is exactly what you did when you joined that Lion or Lioness Club. So why is it so difficult to get some members to sign up for helping when those Club projects are being planned?

Well, I'm certain there are valid reasons, but for the most part, you became a volunteer when you joined your Lion/Lioness Club. That means you are available when the need arises and that makes you a volunteer. That includes projects and programs outside of your club as well. Projects and programs that would never happen without volunteers.

**A Great Volunteering Experience: Consider the Pride Shoot June 11**

If you are looking for an exciting, fun-filled volunteer opportunity, I highly recommend that you become acquainted with this outstanding annual event. The



**VOLUNTEERS MAKE PRIDE SHOOT POSSIBLE** - PDG Stan Carlson was unable to participate as a shooter at last year so he volunteered.

Pride Campaign will appreciate your help and who knows, you might even be a raffle winner!

Well that is what happened to me when the Pride Campaign office asked for volunteers to help with the Annual Pride Sporting Clays Shoot at the Milford Hills Hunt Club near Lake Mills, Wisc. last year. A fellow Lion knew that I was a sporting clays shooter and he also knew I was temporarily restricted from any shooting events due to my recent multiple eye surgeries. He thought it would be a good idea to have my help at this annual event since I love the sport and enjoy spending time with other Lion friends from around the state.

My response was "absolutely!!"

After missing the turn off the main road and asking a local farmer for directions, I finally arrived at the club ready for my assignment, whatever that may be. After being checked in, I was shown around the clubhouse and took a quick tour of the grounds, which, by the way, was located in a beautiful valley with rolling hills. The landscaping around the club was spectacular.

Then to my surprise, I was given a handful of raffle tickets and away I went, meeting the shooters as they arrived and selling as many tickets as quickly as possible. I ended up needing another handful of tickets that also sold quickly. Incidentally, the raffle prizes were awesome and included some very fine high-grade shotguns.

Before shooting time, all the volunteers were taken out to the first and second shooting stations and given a briefing on the equipment, the scoring method and the safety rules. I was assigned to station number one which required shooters to fire at two targets coming low from left to right in a crossing pattern, both at the same time. After several teams came through my station, it was obvious that the skill level varied from "never done this before" to expert. In any case, I enjoyed the entire day including the delicious dinner that was served in the clubhouse afterwards.

But I must admit, it was difficult for me to stand and watch the shooters enjoying the event and not participating with them. The competitive shooting sports have always been one of my most favorite outdoor activities and will continue to be as long as I am able.

The 4th Annual Lions Pride Shoot is June 11, 2011 at Milford Hills. To volunteer or sign up as a shooter contact the Lions Pride office today at 715-677-7000.