

Lion Debbie Conger – Melvin Jones Fellowship Recipient

Melvin Jones was a visionary, a self-starter, and, at a meeting, presented the question to a group of businessmen who were about to go under, "What if these men, who are successful because of their drive, intelligence and ambition, were to put their talents to work improving their communities?" And that is how Lions International was born - at his invitation, delegates from men's clubs met in Chicago to lay the groundwork for such an organization. One fellow Lion comes to mind when I read this description of someone who works diligently to improve our community and that person is Lion Debbie Conger.

Lion Debbie was the Point Venture Lions Club president July, 2009 through June, 2010 but her commitment to the club began far before then. She became a charter member in 2005, with husband, Joe, coordinated the first Point Venture Lions Club golf tournament, organized the door prizes for the 2006 golf tournament, served as bartender for a year, has been a club board member since 2007, and has served on various committees. She volunteered to be the golf tournament chair in 2007 and, the nominating committee, recognizing her potential and excellent leadership qualities, approached her to become 3rd vice president. Again, in 2009, she took on the job of golf tournament chair. For the 2010 golf tournament, Lion Debbie secured two, donated Southwest Airlines round-trip tickets and raffle tickets were sold prior to the golf tournament. Proceeds from this fundraiser were approximately \$4700. She did the same for the 2011 tournament and close to \$4300 has been raised.

Prior to becoming Lions Club president, Lion Debbie, like Lion Melvin Jones, had a vision for the well-being of the club and approached her position with determination and resolve. One of her main objectives was to acquire a 501(c)(3) status for our club. Working with treasurer, Lion Gene Glass, this project was completed and, today, the club is a non-profit organization with tax-exempt status and other fiscal benefits. Some other accomplishments by the club during her leadership include:

**the Melvin Jones Fellowship was awarded to Lion Gene Glass
our club participated in the Early Childhood Vision Screening with the Lago Vista club**

we served food, for the first time, at the Fall Festival and Easter Egg Hunt; both were lucrative fundraisers

we participated in the Blue Santa project providing area needy families with gifts and food gift cards

the Rich Witmer Memorial Scholarship for a Lago Vista high school senior was established

with Lion Jeanne Calvi's design we acquired Point Venture Lions pins

our's was recognized for being the most active Lions Club at the district convention in April of 2010 and Lion Debbie was presented a plaque

club member Lion Beverly Carter taught members how to make balloon animals for a fundraiser at the Lago Vista street dance

members were encouraged to participate in blood drives

8 club members became certified alcohol seller/servers

Work and research were already underway on establishing a liquor liability policy for the club and Debbie oversaw this project during her tenure as president.

Lion Debbie has attended the Texas Lions Camp workday in Kerrville as well as the watermelon feast held there in June, shows up for every trash pick-up day, and has had perfect attendance every year since becoming a member. Lion Debbie's talents reach far and wide and are not just limited to administrative and managerial duties. Let's not forget that in November, 2010, she and her fellow performers, the Venture Girls, participated in the karaoke night and brought down the house with their rendition of "One Fine Day".

Aside from her commitment to our Lions club, Debbie has been very influential in other areas and projects throughout the Point Venture community. She was president of the Point Venture Women's Golf Association for two years, has served as games chair for that group, and continues to serve on the POA golf committee. Lion Debbie invited Lions members to join the Women's Golf Association's annual Sunshine Kids event, providing them the opportunity to reach out to these children who are afflicted with cancer. She is currently leading the charge to build a permanent cover on the golf course deck and is planning a fundraising event to cover the costs.

Lion Debbie is a shining example of lionism, is committed to its purpose, and possesses a loving and giving spirit for all who know her. Her contribution and dedication to this Lions club certainly more than qualifies her to be a Melvin Jones Fellowship recipient and it gives me great pleasure to present this award to my friend, Debbie. Congratulations Lion Debbie Conger!!

Nominated by Lion Nan Knapp