

## **Leader Dog here we come!**

In August I had the wonderful experience of traveling with six other MD 19 Lions from Districts E, F and G to the Leader Dog Headquarters in Rochester Hills, MI. Each summer Leader Dog chooses Lion Ambassadors across the country to make the journey to Michigan to visit their facility and learn about this special guide dog school founded by Lions 80 years ago.

While on the campus we toured the updated Canine Development Center that can house up to 200 dogs in various stages of their training. There is an on site veterinary clinic, a leather shop where they make the harnesses, a viewing area for the puppies and of course a gift shop! We had the opportunity to take a blindfold walk with a guide dog and we toured the resident client rooms.

We heard from the staff about the Leader Dog Organization, we had demonstrations from the trainers and heard personal stories from several Leader Dog clients. Our good friend Pauline was there with her 10th Leader Dog, Satchmo. She told us that, "56 years ago she was at Leader Dog getting her first guide dog." She completed her training and soon after was enrolled at a university getting her degree. Having a Leader Dog changed Pauline's life!

Even after 80 years, Leader Dog continues to maintain a strong relationship with Lions around the country. Lion's donations make a difference in the lives of individuals who receive a Leader Dog. Your club contributions give independence and increase mobility to the blind and visually impaired. There are several ways your club can donate (see attachment at the end of the newsletter). Check out the Leader Dog Web site. Thank you for your club contributions!

Zone Chair Debbie



1st VDG Ray Fujiura and PDG Carol Whitman from District F, Lion Lonnie Morse, PDG Lyn Harriman  
1st VDG Peggy Harriman from District E, PDG Mark Mansell and ZC Debbie Mansell from District G