



Chapter 3

The Presidency

The LITPC President is a member who has advanced to the position, after having served in the office of Vice President. The President's term of office is for two years. He/she has general supervisory powers over all matters concerning the LITPC, and is an ex-officio member of all Committees. He/she makes all appointments as may be necessary or authorized. He performs all the duties delegated to him by the LITPC Constitution, and presides at all meetings of the Club and the meetings of the LITPC Board of Directors.

Rather than devoting a chapter exclusively for showing the official pins issued by the LITPC, the pins are shown in this chapter as they were issued by each administration.

The Presidency

Background

The LITPC President is an elected position by the general membership. In actuality, the membership votes to fill the lowest opened position of Vice President and that individual advances automatically to the Office of President. The LITPC had only one Vice President up until 1981 when a Second Vice President was added, each of whom advanced every two years to the next higher position. In 1992, the position of Third Vice President was added, but was then eliminated in 2007. Thus, we are now an organization with a President and two Vice Presidents.

We have asked each living Past President, in his own words, to write a brief summary of his two-year term. Obviously, writing about yourself and the accomplishments that you feel you are entitled to claim, is not an easy task and one that is normally reserved for some "historian" or other third party. Since we in the LITPC are not gifted with a historian for this purpose, and very few third parties are available to properly reflect upon a given term of office, we felt that the Past Presidents themselves are best suited for this task. Unfortunately, so many of our early Presidents are deceased and, in the absence of a reputation for good recordkeeping, we have had to cover their terms of office with a brief summary for each. However, before we begin the process, we feel the need to explain an unusual set of circumstances as they affect any description of the presidency of the LITPC.

The Removal of a President

The easy way out of an unpleasant experience that involved the LITPC presidency was to just simply ignore the facts. However, in the opinion of this writer, that would be akin to ignoring a part of our history. As in any organization, the LITPC is not without some "twists and turns" that make for some interesting conversation. The LITPC is based on democratic principals wherein the membership has the final say as to the leadership of the organization. This has certainly been true for the most part within the LITPC. However, in 1989, during the LITPC Annual Meeting in Miami, Florida, PDG **Jack Scott** of Ohio, advanced to the Presidency in accordance with our Constitution that provides for the automatic advancement of our Vice Presidents to the next higher office. Having served for two years as First Vice President, Scott succeeded President **Darwin Willis** of Texas. One of the first orders of business for Scott, at least in his mind, was to see that a comprehensive Membership Directory was printed. In this connection, the outgoing Membership Chairman, Lion **William N. Vaughan** of Florida, had developed a rather bulky and complicated document that included over 1,000 names. Without checking on the accuracy of the document and without obtaining consent of the LITPC Board of Directors, Scott authorized a printer in Ohio to print 1,400 copies for distribution to the membership and for use as a recruiting tool to further increase membership. When Scott approached our Treasurer, **Ed Fogelman** of Washington, about payment for the printing job, he was told that an amount of that nature (several thousand dollars) would have to be approved by the Board. Obviously, the printer was in no mood to wait for his payment and indicated to Scott that he would take all necessary legal action to recover his expenses. When the matter was brought before the LITPC Board and upon reviewing the document, it was determined that the 1,000 names included over 400 who had died or who had been previously dropped from our rolls. It seems as though Lion Vaughan, in his role as Membership Chairman, was more than anxious to meet a goal of having 1,000 plus members on our rolls, and neither he nor Scott had bothered to verify the currency of the listing. The fact of the matter is the LITPC only had a little over 600 members at the time. The LITPC Board turned down the request for reimbursement for a document that obviously could never be used by the membership. In an attempt to recoup his expenses, Lion Scott hired a lawyer to pursue possible legal action against the LITPC. Thanks in great part to the efforts of Lion Chuck Weldon, California, a settlement out of court was agreed to by all parties, and the LITPC paid \$2,500.. Since Scott had only been in office as the LITPC President for less than a month when all of this happened, the Board and Scott came to a mutual understanding that resulted in his removal as the President of the LITPC. In an emergency Board meeting in New Mexico during the USA-Canada Forum, First Vice President **Al Stack** advanced to the Presidency in accordance with the LITPC Constitution.

The LITPC Constitution was clear that the Second Vice President, PDG **Richard Lindelof** of Massachusetts, would advance to the office of First Vice President and the office of Second Vice President would remain unfilled until the next annual meeting of the LITPC. However, a misunderstanding, or better stated, a misreading of the Constitution resulted in the LITPC Board of Directors appointing a new Second Vice President, **William R. Cooper** of Florida. Thus, for the first time in our history, the membership was deprived of the opportunity to vote on an officer of the organization. Another note here of historical significance is that with the removal of Scott, it marked the first time that an officer had been removed from office. Lion Scott is not considered a past president and is not shown in the line of succession since his tenure was so brief and served with so much rancor.

The Summary of the Presidents

On the following pages you will find a summary of the terms of office for each person who has been privileged to serve as the President of the Lions International Trading Pin Club. Once again, in the absence of historical records and the demise of our early presidents, the early summaries were written by the Editor of this history, PCC **Bill Smith** of Virginia.

Lion M. W. “Dutch” Blair, PDG

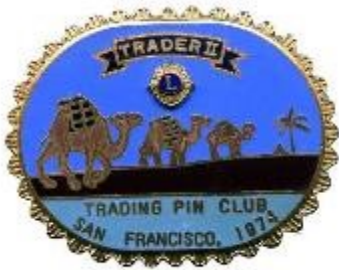
Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania
 Founding President 1973-1975



Lion “Dutch” Blair was elected in Miami Beach, Florida, by the Founding Members to be the first president of the LITPC. This was during a luncheon meeting at the Sheraton Four Ambassador Hotel during the LCI convention in 1973. The meeting started with a motion being made by Lion **Jim Shea** of Washington State to “officially organize an International Pin Collectors and Traders Club.” The motion was carried unanimously. Lion Shea then made the motion to elect PDG “Dutch” as Founding President. Once again the motion was unanimously approved by the assembled Founding Members. Although a president does not normally make a motion, the newly elected President “Dutch” Blair made the motion that Lion Jim Shea be elected Vice President and that Lion **Dominick Pallone**, Pennsylvania, be elected Secretary-Treasurer. Again, the motion was unanimously approved by the attendees. The first LITPC pin, which has already been discussed, was made available, then it was announced that the second pin would be designed by a committee, including Blair, Shea, and **Whit Miller** of Oregon. The assembled Founding Fathers agreed that a membership entrance fee would be set at \$10 and that an annual fee of \$2.00 would be charged.

In the Second Annual Meeting of the LITPC in 1974 in San Francisco, California, Vice President Jim Shea discussed the proposed LITPC constitution, which would require LCI approval. Shea indicated that he and PID **Bill Chandler**, Alabama, would take responsibility for obtaining the necessary approval, after the general LITPC membership had been given an opportunity to comment on it. In order to take in new members during this meeting, it was agreed that pending the approval of the constitution, the Founding Members would be the sponsor of any new member. Thereafter, a specific LITPC member would have to be the sponsoring member.

Our Founding President passed away in December of 2000.



Trader II, San Francisco, and Trader III, Dallas, were issued during the Presidency of Lion “Dutch” Blair.

Trader II San Francisco 1974

Trader III Dallas 1975

Lion **Ken Rhinevault**, Illinois, proposed that the LITPC also issue a “prestige” pin with the same designation of “Trader II”. The membership present at the meeting approved the proposal and that pin is shown below, to the left. It has become known as the “green dot” version to denote the green emblem in the upper right of the pin. In addition, Lion Ken provided a special version to the members of the Board and to a few of his friends. That version had an orange emblem in lieu of the green one, and it is shown below on the right. This so-called “orange dot” pin is the most highly collectible pins of all the LITPC pins to have been issued to date. At an auction in Virginia in 1999, an orange dot that had been owned by Lion **Ed Fogelman**, Washington, brought \$1,200.



Green Dot Version of the '74 Prestige Pin



Orange Dot Version of the '74 Prestige Pin

Note: It is alleged that only 25 of these pins were made by the pin maker as a favor to Lion Ken Rhinevault.

Lion James R. “Jim” Shea, PID
 Bellevue, Washington
 Second LITPC President 1975 - 1977



PID **Jim Shea** is considered by many to be the true driving force behind the eventual approval by LCI for the establishment of the LITPC. Unfortunately, we have absolutely no records to document Lion Jim’s tenure as President. Lion Jim did send me a copy of a memo that he wrote on April 25, 1974 that was addressed to “Dear Fellow Lion:” In reading the memo, it became readily clear that it was intended to be Lion Jim’s understanding of what took place in Miami Beach in 1973, as well as his understanding of the purpose of the trading pin club. He stated that the purpose of the Club “*is to foster and develop the avocation of Lions Friendship Pin trading and collecting; and to further strengthen International Lionism through International friendship*”. In the event those words are not familiar to you, they are identical to the purpose of the Club, as stated in the eventual LITPC constitution. If nothing else, this helps to strengthen the claim by several that Lion Jim was in fact the “brains behind” this concept of an organized pin trading club.

Based on Founding Member **Lion Bill Cooper’s** recollection, a slight “hitch” in the election process developed in 1975 in Dallas, Texas, when Lion **Whit Miller** was nominated from the floor to challenge Lion Jim Shea for the presidency. This was the first and only time anyone has ever challenged the senior vice president for elevation to the presidency. The bid was unsuccessful and now our constitution provides that our vice presidents will automatically advance to the next higher office, without challenge.

On July 5, 1996, Lion Jim passed away in his home town of Bellevue, Washington. When it was not very fashionable for distinguished Lions at the International level to wear or even exchange trading pins, you could depend on Lion Jim to do otherwise. Whether it was at an International Show at the Convention or on the streets at the site of the Convention, it was not surprising to hear Lion Jim ask someone - “*excuse me, would you like to trade pins?*” He was the epitome of the word “class”, and the LITPC was very fortunate to have had a man of his stature and vision when it came time to organize the group back in 1973. He exercised tremendous influence on the development and design of our early pins, and encouraged others to join him in the design aspect of our hobby. His wonderful wife, **Wyoma**, liked to tell anyone who would listen, “*our home is like a pin depository for trading pins. Jim literally has boxes and boxes of pins that are stashed away in every nook and cranny of our home.*” Lion Jim Shea was truly a man who dearly loved our hobby and the folks who called themselves pin traders.

In 2006, PID Jim Shea was posthumously inducted as the eleventh member of the LITPC Hall of Fame.

Traders IV and V were issued during Lion Jim’s Presidency.



Trader V, New



Trader IV, Orleans

Honolulu 1976

Lion Ken Rhinevault
 LaGrange, Illinois
 Third LITPC President 1977 - 1979



Lion **Ken Rhinevault** was, without a doubt, one of the most avid pin traders that we have ever met. He was much like a lot of us when we first got into pin trading by trying to get every pin that he didn't already have in his collection. As a leader within the LITPC, his approach to membership was novel, to say the least. When the organization was first being organized in 1973, he was a strong advocate for limiting membership in order to make the Club an exclusive one, and one that included only the most avid pin collectors. Fortunately for all of us who followed, his "exclusive rule" did not prevail.

In his many roles as a leader in the LITPC, he took on the responsibility for editing the club's newsletter, which had no title and was usually limited to one or two sheets of legal size paper. His unique way of being down right blunt, and sometimes rude, became almost legendary. As the Editor, he also assumed the role of Membership Chairman and let it be known that if you wanted to join the LITPC there was only a small window, so to speak, to get your application to him. He only accepted new member

forms between July and September. After that, he sent everything back and you had to wait until the following year. That was his personal rule and being the President, Editor, and Membership Chairman, he had the clout to make it stick. Of course, it accounts for the fact that during this period, the LITPC was a very small group with a huge potential for growth.

In 1978, the LCI convention was held in Tokyo, Japan, and only a few LITPC members made it to the Land of the Rising Sun. I personally remember seeing President Ken trading pins, sitting on the ground outside the Convention Center in the middle of Tokyo. Being a relatively new member myself, as well as being an Incoming DG, I didn't stop to chat with him primarily because the crush of Lions (mostly those from the Orient) around him would have made it almost impossible. He was the only pin trader in sight and I felt certain he didn't need a "green horn" like myself to interfere in all the fun he was obviously having. I just wish I had remembered to bring my camera that day. It would have made a great addition to this history. A side note here is in order. Because of the convention being outside of the U.S.A., a group of LITPC members, headed by Vice President, **Dr. O.J. Ratcliff**, traveled to Toronto, Canada to join the Lions of MD-A at their convention. At that time, Canada was no doubt the 'hotbed' of avid pin traders, and their pins were the most elaborate and most in demand throughout Lionism. It can be said that this small group of traders were the first LITPC members to seek an alternate site, even though it was not an official gathering of the organization.

We do not want to leave you with the impression that Lion Ken Rhinevault was against progress. It's just that his personality was not what you would advocate in a public relations role, which was really what the LITPC needed in the early stages. The fact remains that he was truly one of our pioneers in this organization and certainly contributed significantly to the establishment of the LITPC as a viable entity in LCI. In the latter stages of his life, before he succumbed to the ravages of cancer, Lion Ken was one of the most gentle and likable individuals one could hope to be around.

Here are Trader VI and Trader VII pins that were issued during his tenure as President.



Trader VII,



Trader VI,
 Montreal, Can-

Tokyo 1978
 ada 1979

Lion Dr. O. J. Ratcliff, PDG
 North Little Rock, Arkansas
 Fourth LITPC President 1979 - 1981



PDG “Doc” Ratcliff, like his three predecessors, was a Founding Member of the LITPC, and was arguably one of the easiest traders, particularly for new members, to trade pins. His philosophy was quite simple. *“If I don’t have the pin being offered, I want it and will trade whatever it takes to get it.”* Our good friends from India used to love this man when they encountered him at an LCI convention. He tried his best to accommodate any and all of them on the basis that someone else might like to have any duplicates that he might gather. With this method of operation, he obviously became an extremely popular Lion at a convention. We hasten to add, his personality was such that he became popular just being “Doc” Ratcliff. His smooth delivery and general stage presence from the podium during our meetings was such a drastic change from his immediate predecessor. The membership of the LITPC came to dearly love this outstanding gentleman. This type of affection was not limited to the Lions. In his hometown of North Little Rock, Arkansas, there is a park named in his honor.

Over the years, until his untimely passing, he accumulated something in excess of 40,000 friendship or trading pins. In the will that he left, he specified that the pins should be offered to the Arkansas Enterprise for the Blind for display purposes in their administrative building. Should they not want the responsibility of constantly rotating the collection, the pins were to become the property of one of his protégés, PDG **Carolyn Marlin**, who was brought into pin trading by “Doc” Ratcliff. Lion Carolyn later served on the LITPC Board as a Director and remains THE person in the State of Arkansas to see for the MD-7 pins. Speaking of the MD-7, Arkansas, pins, “Doc” Ratcliff was the designer of the overwhelming majority of their pins prior to his death. All of the prestige Arkansas Razorback pins, up to that time, were personally designed and distributed by “Doc” Ratcliff. The Razorback pins, thanks to Lion Carolyn Marlin, remain the favorite of many traders. Lion Carolyn assumed the design responsibilities after “Doc” Ratcliff’s passing. “Doc” Ratcliff was truly a goodwill ambassador for pin trading. He was the fourth person to be inducted (posthumously) into the LITPC Hall of Fame in 2002.

Here are the LITPC pins issued during “Doc” Ratcliff’s presidency.



Trader VIII, Chicago 1980



Special Issue for Chicago 1980



“Volume I Closed Book
 The beginning of a new series in 1981.



“Volume I as an Open Book

Lion Dr. Jack Bishop, PDG
 Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
 Fifth LITPC President 1981 - 1983



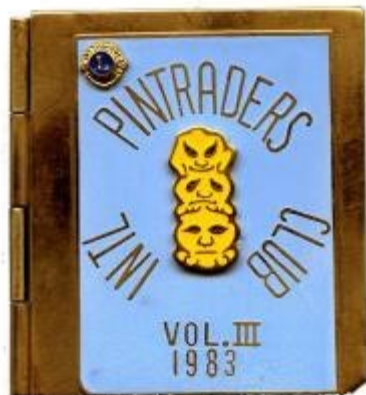
PDG **Jack Bishop** became the first non-U.S.A. President of the LITPC during the 1981 LCI Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Although he had a reputation as a fun-loving and easygoing pin trader, he proved to be an extremely effective and serious-minded leader. He was a dentist by profession and had established himself in his hometown of Kitchener, Ontario, as the organizer and director of the largest Octoberfest outside of Germany. The celebrations and events connected with the Octoberfest ran for a full two weeks and raised thousands upon thousands of dollars for charitable organizations in his province.

It was during Lion Jack's tenure as president that the creation of multiple district pin trading clubs rose to the surface. When the first such club was organized in Virginia, Lion Jack was among those in the leadership of the LITPC that felt threatened by their creation. He was concerned that many would view these new organizations as being in competition with the LITPC. This created some tension between the rest of the LITPC Board of Directors and the newly elected Director from Virginia, PCC **Bill Smith**, the Founding President of the Virginia group. However, to his credit, Lion Jack took the position that the LITPC, as an organization, should not get involved in the process. This left it wide open for individual involvement without fear of interference from the LITPC. As you will read, the advent of multiple district pin trading clubs proved to be the greatest single boost for membership in the LITPC than any other event or cause.

Lion Jack served as a District Governor in 1978-79 and made no secrets about his desire to advance within the hierarchy of Lionism. To this end, he was advised by the folks in charge of such things that it would be to his advantage to divest himself of his close association with the pin traders. Although he was reluctant to do so, his desire to serve the international organization prevailed and shortly after his presidency of the LITPC, he became inactive. Unfortunately for Lion Jack, his ambitions were not appreciated by the folks who control such things and the last we heard of Jack he was devoting most of his available time to running the Kitchener Octoberfest.



Volume II Open Book
 Volume II Closed Book Atlanta 1982



Volume III Closed Book
 Honolulu 1983



Open Book

Volume III

Lion George Weaver, PDG
Winter Haven, Florida
Sixth LITPC President 1983 - 1985



The Hawaii Experience

Lion **George Weaver** of Florida was elected as our sixth LITPC President in beautiful downtown Honolulu, Hawaii, on 23 June 1983. Although the surroundings of that island paradise were truly outstanding, our relations with LCI were troublesome, to say the least. Lion George was an extremely active Lion at all levels and had established many important contacts within the headquarters at Oak Brook. All of his efforts prior to our arriving in Hawaii went up in smoke, so to speak, when the pin trading area for the convention was assigned to a remote hotel away from the general convention traffic. The pin traders who agreed to take their pins to this site quickly found out that this was going to be a lonely outpost totally absent of anyone but the pin traders themselves. Obviously, after hauling their pins from the mainland, these high-spirited pin traders quickly agreed that they should abandon the site and head for the convention center, which was several miles away. Much to the surprise of everyone, the pin traders were stopped at the door of the convention center and were told that they would not be permitted to take up space inside the center to trade pins. The only alternative was to find space on the grounds of the center and to spread out the pins for everyone to see, and hopefully, make a few trades. The sight of all those grown men and ladies sitting on the grass trading pins attracted the local news media. After chatting with several pin traders, the news people gave wide coverage in the local newspapers about the conditions that existed between the various parties within Lionism. This got the attention of the leadership within Lionism, and probably proved to be the opening of better and more accommodating facilities for all pin traders in the future.

The foregoing accounting of the opening of the Weaver era is not intended to be negative in any sense of the word. It merely is an accurate accounting of the times in which Lion George was forced to begin his tenure. Lion George did not allow this to deter him from his ultimate goal of improving relations with LCI and to promoting pin trading throughout the organization. He proved to be a very vigorous defender of what he referred to as “pin trader rights”. It can be stated that through his personal efforts, the foundation for a better LITPC was and is his legacy in this organization.

How George Got Started

Before we go too far in this reflection of the Weaver administration, it would be appropriate to recount the story of how Lion George got hooked as a pin trader. The LCI convention in 1973 was in Miami Beach, Florida, which was not too far from the Weaver home, and he found himself being approached by two Lions in the convention center who were obviously deeply involved in this thing we call pin trading. One was from Illinois, a Lion by the name of **Ken Rhinevault** and the other from Canada by the name of **Jack Bishop**. Lion George had attempted to trade pins with both of these Lions earlier in the day but was not too successful. They told him about a club that had formed the day before and asked if he would like to join. Even though Lion George said “sure”, he was quickly advised that he would NOT be considered a Founding Member of the LITPC. That’s how close Lion George came to having that coveted title. Anyway, for those of you who have not made the connection yet, Lion Ken Rhinevault later became the Third LITPC President and Lion Jack Bishop was the Fifth President. They took George under their wing and started him on the road to eventually becoming a driving force within the LITPC.

San Francisco, California

In 1984, the LCI convention was held in the legendary city of San Francisco. One of the first appointments made by Lion George was the naming of Lion **Al Stack** of California to be the LITPC Convention Chairman for that convention. The Annual Meeting and Breakfast was without a doubt, one of the best in the history of the LITPC and it catapulted Al Stack and his very supportive wife, **Kaye**, into the limelight that has not faded since then. You see, Lion Al Stack later became the ninth LITPC President, which you will read about later in this publication. Anyway, the LCI Convention Chairman that year was our old friend PIP **Bill Chandler** of Alabama. You may recall reading earlier how Lion Bill, together with our Second President, PID **Jim Shea**, were the two who are given credit for obtaining approval for our existence as an entity within Lionism. Lion Bill had always had a special feeling for the pin traders and thanks to him, once again, we were treated to an excellent location within the convention center for trading pins and even provided us with chairs for our handicapped pin traders.

The Pitch for Tables and Chairs

One of the major goals that Lion George had was to convince LCI that the pin traders were Lions first and pin traders second. He met numerous times with officials in Oak Brook in his attempt to convince the powers-to-be that the pin traders deserved to not only have adequate trading space within the convention centers where LCI conducted their conventions, but that chairs should also be a consideration. Although he was not successful in this regard during his two years as our president, he certainly must be given credit for opening up the channels of communications that eventually led to our present arrangements whereby we can rent a table and chair and be assured of having our “own space” each day.

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Lion George Weaver, PDG Sixth LITPC President 1983 - 1985

The Beginning of the Pin Contest

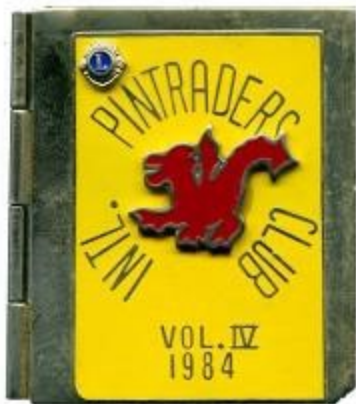
One very important program that was initiated during the Weaver administration was the LITPC Pin Contest. Lion George felt strongly that the pin traders should have an opportunity to share their creations with their fellow pin traders each year. The only pin contest in existence prior to this is the one that is judged by non-pin traders at the international level. Lion George wanted one that was for and by the pin traders and one that would be judged by pin traders. His vision for this continues to this day each year as a part of our Annual Meeting and Breakfast where the winners are announced and given recognition.

Dallas, Texas

The next significant event was the 1985 LCI Convention that was held in Dallas, Texas. This one will forever be known as the convention that most of the members of the LCI Board of Directors came to our breakfast as our guest. Obviously, this proved to be the most expensive breakfast in the history of the LITPC and our Treasurer, PDG **Ed Fogelman**, almost had a stroke when he saw the bill. Prior to this, we had never been honored to have more than a token representation from LCI. It has been discussed and debated by those involved as to what really was the reason for such a turnout of the power structure at this single event. Lion George had appointed Lion **Jimmy Thompson** of Irving, Texas, as our Convention Chairman, and he and Lion George managed to find accommodations at the Greenleaf Hotel, which was not too far from the Convention Center. Since it was not one that had been sanctioned by the LCI Convention Committee, some rationalized that our ability to get such a site might have gone a long way in causing the international family to take notice of this organization called the LITPC. Thus, the huge turnout of LCI officials might very well have been caused by this "arrival of the LITPC". Whatever the reason, Lion George and his First Vice President, Lion **Bill Smith** of Virginia, spent most of the night before going over the many details that are required from a protocol standpoint. We must have done the right things because the following year in New Orleans, Louisiana, the President of LCI once again joined us for breakfast. You will read about that in the description of the next administration.

Reflections

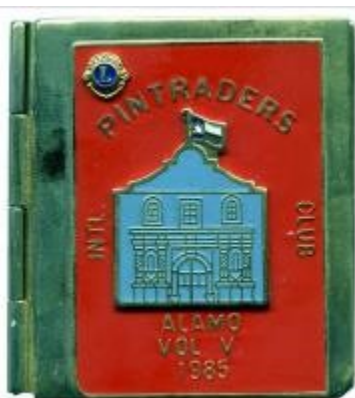
Lion George Weaver stressed that his two years as President was truly one of the most satisfying periods of his life. He indicated that just knowing that we were finally being recognized as a viable entity within Lionism was in itself worth all the difficult times that he had to endure on behalf of the pin trading community. He singled out his First Vice President (Bill Smith) as a person he could depend upon to continue the leadership that would be needed if we were to maintain our position with the international organization.



Vol IV Closed Book
San Francisco, California 1984



Volume IV Open Book



Volume V Closed Book
Dallas, Texas 1985



Volume V Open Book

Lion William A. “Bill” Smith, PCC

Warrenton, Virginia

Seventh LITPC President 1985 - 1987



PCC **Bill Smith** was elected as the seventh President of the LITPC on June 20, 1985 during the LCI Convention in Dallas, Texas. This was the convention that the entire Board of Directors of Lions Clubs International (LCI) accepted our invitation to attend our Annual Meeting and Breakfast. One member remarked that he wasn't sure whether the Board came to bid outgoing President, PDG **George Weaver** of Florida, a fond farewell or to make sure that the organization voted President Bill in office. Whatever the motivation, it can be stated with certainty that since we picked up the tab, this was by far our most expensive Breakfast in the history of the LITPC.

Multiple District Pin Trading Clubs Approved by LCI

President Bill, during his opening remarks, announced that he would work tirelessly to obtain recognition of the several multiple district pin trading clubs by LCI. This pledge obviously didn't fall on deaf ears of the LCI Board since several members approached Lion Bill after the Breakfast to assure him that they would do all in their power to assist him in meeting this goal. While on this subject, it is interesting to note that as a result of many pages of correspondence, a multitude of telephone calls, and two trips to Oak Brook by President Bill, an agreement was somewhat grudgingly approved by LCI to recognize multiple district pin trading clubs. Each such club would be required to prepare a resolution proposing the establishment of the club and would be required to have the resolution approved by the delegates present at the next annual convention of their multiple district. After this was accomplished, LCI would then have to approve a proposed constitution for the club before LCI would authorize trading pins to be made that include the name of the pin trading club. In spite of these administrative "road blocks", President Bill was proud to witness the establishment of over 20 such clubs during his tenure as President of the LITPC. One strong supporter of Lion Bill's, PDG **Dick Lindelof** of Massachusetts (later a President of the LITPC), once introduced Lion Bill as the "Father of Multiple District Pin Trading Clubs". President Bill's personal pin during his presidency was aimed at this highlight of his tenure. The pin stated that "Lee Surrendered, But I Did Not". This referred to the fact that he continued to fight for the rights of the multiple district pin trading clubs. This pin is shown on the next page.

Hotel Sanctioned by LCI for the LITPC

For a number of years, the LITPC had been trying to get LCI to recognize the LITPC as a separate delegation in order for us to be assigned our own hotel. We had to scramble each year to find the best and nearest hotel to the convention center. Often, we "piggy-backed" with a multiple district that had a desirable location. In other years, we were left out in the cold, so to speak, and managed to find hotel space often in the suburbs of the city in which the LCI convention was held. In 1986, as a result of some personal correspondence with International Convention Chairman, PIP **Joseph McLaughlin** of Connecticut, and a personal visit with him during the USA-Canada Forum, President Bill managed to get 25 rooms assigned to the LITPC in the Downtown Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans, which was the site of the 1986 LCI convention. The intent was to have sufficient rooms for the LITPC Board. We thought that we had "arrived" as a result of this arrangement and that we would be able to expand in future years. President Bill continues to believe that if PIP McLaughlin had not succumbed to the ravages of cancer, we would have in fact realized our long-time dream. Unfortunately, we didn't achieve that goal until 1997, which will be discussed later in this publication.

LCI Presidential Recognition

One of the highlights of President Bill's tenure as President of the LITPC happened when International President **Joseph L. Wroblewski** of Pennsylvania attended the 1986 LITPC Annual Meeting and Breakfast and presented Lion Bill with the International Presidents award (medal). This is the first and only time (to date) that an International President has so honored one of our Presidents. In his remarks, President Wroblewski made it clear that the recognition was based primarily on the leadership skills shown by Lion Bill during his efforts to obtain recognition for the multiple district pin trading clubs.

Massive Membership Growth

During this period, the LITPC experienced a massive growth that was caused primarily by the acceptance of the multiple district clubs as separate entities within Lionism. Huge numbers of their members rather naturally joined the "parent" organization. When President Bill assumed the role as LITPC President, our membership was in the 350 range. By the time he turned the reins over to his successor in 1987, our rolls had swelled to more than 700. Although President Bill gives all the credit to the individual multiple district clubs for this fantastic growth, the fact remains that it was his leadership that caused those organizations to be recognized by LCI.

(Continued On Next Page)

Lion William A. “Bill” Smith, PCC

Seventh LITPC President 1985 - 1987

The Beginning of Alternate Site Meetings

In 1987, President Bill asked the LITPC Board of Directors to approve the concept of an Alternate Site Meeting when the LCI convention was to be held outside of North America. As a part of this concept, it would have to be determined that there would be insufficient attendance by the membership to conduct the annual meeting at the site outside of North America. A survey was made of the entire LITPC membership and it was, in fact determined that there would be insufficient numbers of LITPC members attending the LCI convention in Taipei, Taiwan. The Board approved President Bill’s concept and thus we had the first official LITPC Alternate Site Meeting in Sudbury, Canada. This concept continues today and has been used numerous times since 1987. This concept was approved officially when the Constitution was changed in 1991.

Historic Election

During the Annual Meeting in Sudbury, history was made during the nominations process when Lion **Al Stack** of California was nominated to oppose Lion **Peter Giffin** of Canada for the office of Second Vice President. Giffin was the choice of the Nominating Committee but Lion Al Stack was the choice of the membership in attendance at this meeting. This was the first time ever that a person was elected from the floor over the candidate from the slate presented by the Nominating Committee.

Addendum

As an addendum to all of this, I would like to say that it is not an easy task to write about yourself. I have tried my best to be objective and to restrict my comments only to the most significant events that happened during my tenure as President. I have since managed to keep myself involved in the administration of the organization, including serving as the Editor of the LITPC *“Trading Post”* for over 20 years, and chairing the extremely important Policy Committee. I owe so much to the LITPC for being allowed to serve and to be able to associate with such dedicated folks that we are privileged to have had as leaders over the years. Being the first inductee into the LITPC Hall of Fame was certainly the “crowning glory” for me. For all of this, I offer my sincere thanks.



1986 New Orleans



Bill’s personal pin is it took to get recognition trading clubs.



tied to the battles nition for the MD

1987 Taipei, Taiwan

Darwin Willis, PDG
Graham, Texas
Eighth LITPC President 1987 - 1989



PDG **Darwin Willis** was elected as the eighth president of the LITPC in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, which was our Alternate Site Meeting in 1987, in lieu of having the Annual Meeting at the LCI convention in Taiwan. The general meeting was an historic one in that a member (**Al Stack**, CA) was nominated from the floor for Vice President, and elected, in opposition to the nominee (**Peter Giffin**, Canada) on the slate. Lion Al Stack became the Second Vice President, and Peter Giffin, who failed to attend the meeting, later resigned from the Club.

On a sad note at this point, it was announced that our Third LITPC President, Lion **Ken Rhinevault** of Illinois, had passed away from cancer.

President Darwin called for his first meeting to be held at a Lions Youth Camp in Florida on February 6, 1988. The primary topic for discussion was the need to document the creation of Alternate Site Meetings, which had been approved by the Board in the last administration. This was the concept that permitted the LITPC to hold meetings at a site that would attract the most members when the LCI convention is scheduled to be held outside of North America. Since this new concept would require a change to our Constitution, President Darwin appointed Immediate Past President **Bill Smith**, Virginia, to lead the effort in getting the

necessary changes ready for presentation to the general membership.

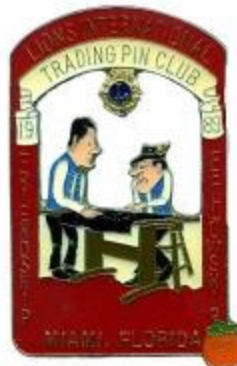
Another significant matter was brought before the Board in Florida and that concerned the payment for work being performed by a member of the LITPC. The LITPC Constitution specifically prohibits such payments. However, Editor and Membership Chair, Lion **Bill Vaughan**, requested that the restriction be waived and that he be paid based on \$1.00 per member. Although the request was denied, it was once again brought to the table at the Board Meeting in Denver in 1988. In spite of the specific prohibition against paying members for their services to the organization, the Board approved paying Vaughan \$1.00 for each member on our rolls. As you will see later on, paying a Membership Chairman, based on the total number of members, can lead to serious problems. For the record, the Constitution & By-Laws Chairman (PP **Bill Smith**) and the Secretary (**Ed Fogelman**) strongly opposed the motion and voted against paying Vaughan.

In 1989, the LCI convention was held in Miami Beach, Florida, and the LITPC managed to secure lodging for the membership in condos that were available from what is referred to as "snow birds" in Florida. These are people who use these condos during the winter months and they normally sit vacant during the summer period that we were there. Probably the most historic event for the pin traders was the opening of the very first LITPC hospitality room to provide a gathering place for the membership when they were not otherwise involved in pin trading or other activities. Past President **George Weaver** and Lion **Bill Vaughan**, both from Florida, could equally claim responsibility for what would prove in the coming years to be a significant introduction into our very existence at conventions.

An important organizational change in the Board structure occurred during this convention when the positions of Newsletter Editor and Membership Chairman were separated. The current newsletter Editor, Bill Vaughan was in the final stages of cancer and could obviously not continue in the dual role. Thus, Lioness **Dorothy Fogelman**, Washington, assumed responsibility as the Membership Chair, and continued in that position until she retired in 1999 during the San Diego convention. An important note here is that Lioness Dorothy made it clear that she would not accept any payment for her duties as Membership Chair.



1988



1989 Miami

Lion Allen D. “Al” Stack
Petaluma, California
Ninth LITPC President 1989 - 1991



It can be argued that Lion **Al Stack's** rise to the Presidency of the LITPC was not only historic, but rather tumultuous. Lion Al has the distinction of being the only person to be nominated from the floor in opposition to the candidate on the slate presented to the membership for election to the position of Vice President. This all happened in Sudbury, Ontario, during the LITPC Annual Meeting in 1987. The nominee on the slate, Lion **Peter Giffin** of Ontario, failed to appear and Lion Al was nominated by Lion **Jack Walding** of Texas and was elected by an overwhelming majority.

The next phase of President Al's unusual emergence as a leader within the LITPC came in Albuquerque, New Mexico, during the USA-Canada Forum. The LITPC Board of Directors, in an emergency meeting, took the unprecedented action to remove the newly elected President, Lion **Jack Scott**, and elevated Lion Al from his 1st VP position to the Presidency. The reason for the removal of Scott is addressed elsewhere in this history.

One of the very first items of business for the new President was to make some key appointments. He asked Past President **Bill Smith** of Virginia to serve as Editor the first year of his presidency, with the understanding that Lion **Mike Barskey** of California would take over the second year. In addition, he turned to Past President, Dr. **O. J. Ratcliff** of Arkansas to remain in his position as Nominations Chairman. Lion "Doc" as he was affectionately called, had served in a truly outstanding manner and had provided the organization with quality leaders each year in the slates that he presented. Speaking of this, for the first time in our history, we had six nominees for the three Director slots that would be filled in the upcoming LCI convention in St. Louis.

The 73rd LCI Convention was held in St Louis, Missouri, and we adopted the theme "Meet Me In St Louis". Our 2nd Vice President, Lion **Bill Cooper** of Florida, and a former resident of Missouri, provided the leadership in getting a fantastic hotel for us in the western suburbs of the city. The place was called "*Noah's Ark*" with a façade in the shape of a big ark. This was truly a landmark location and one that remains in the minds of many as one of our best. It was arguably the first time the LITPC had a "delegation" hotel even though it was not one that was provided by LCI. In the past, we had hotels that housed the leadership but not the general membership. Because of the distance from the convention center, we even provided van service for those who needed transportation to and from the inner city. Our Annual Meeting and Breakfast was packed and the general consensus was that we would be making a big mistake if we didn't make similar arrangements for future conventions. At the time, we had no idea that eventually LCI would eliminate any concerns of this nature by providing us with delegation status and some of the finest hotels available in any city where a convention is held.

At the conclusion of the St Louis convention, one of President Al's closest associates, Lion **Mike Barskey** of California, became the Editor and changed the name of the newsletter to "*The International Pin Collector*". For whatever reason, the Summer issue, which is normally published in July, was not issued. Lion Mike's first issue was in October of 1990 and it took on a newspaper appearance, which was well received by the general membership. A note here is probably in order. Lion Mike's tenure as Editor lasted for only three issues, which took him to the end of President's Al's second and last year of the Stack administration. Unfortunately, the age old question of compensation reared its ugly head. The position of the LITPC remained firm that no one could be compensated for administrative duties such as being the Editor. Lion Mike felt that he could not continue to devote the amount of time it was taking to produce a quality newsletter without being adequately compensated.

Because the 74th LCI Convention was scheduled for Brisbane, Australia, and it had been determined by a survey of the LITPC membership that there would be insufficient representation of our members in attendance, the LITPC Board of Directors selected Hamilton, Ontario, Canada as the site of our 1991 Annual Meeting. All of this was in accordance with our established policy of Alternate Site Meetings when the LCI Convention is held outside of North America. The Hamilton site was also the location of the MD-A Convention. Although the pin trading area was not the greatest, we at least had acceptable access to the non-pin trading attendees at the convention. Since President Al was technically filling the vacancy created by the removal of Jack Scott, he (Al) could have chosen to remain in office for another two years to serve his "normal" terms of office. However, in the firm belief that the concept of limiting our presidents to a two-year term is a good one, President Al chose not to exercise his option.

There were several significant LITPC policies that were promulgated during President Al's administration. Namely, the channels of communication between the LITPC and LCI were clearly defined. Only the President or his designee were authorized to communicate with LCI on official matters affecting the Club. Any agreements or understandings that may come out of any unauthorized contacts would have

(Continued On Next Page)

Lion Allen D. "Al" Stack Ninth LITPC President 1989 - 1991

no force upon the LITPC. This policy was implemented in an attempt to bring a halt to the tendency of some former leaders to pass themselves off as the LITPC spokesperson to officials at LCI. Also, the Newsletter Editor and the Membership Chair were, for the first time, given full discussion and voting rights on all matters brought before the LITPC Board of Directors. Yet another policy that has proven to be a money-saver for the LITPC was the elimination of membership cards. In this connection, there was absolutely no evidence that the cards had any intrinsic value.

President Al Stack was truly then and continues today to be one of the most popular pin traders in the pin trading community. His easy and laid-back style wears well, so to speak, with the average pin trader. His companion for life, Lion **Kaye Stack**, was never far from his side during the almost two years of President Al's tenure as our president. She gave him the full support that he needed during a period when the LITPC was emerging as a true force within Lionism. Without her support there was no way he could have succeeded since he was overseeing the operation of a thriving business in Northern California and his pin trading activities had to be tempered accordingly. Surprisingly, Lion Kaye was and still is, an active partner in the family business, but never says "no" when it comes to pin trading. They have been referred to as the "first couple of pin trading in California", and for two years, they were also the "first couple of the LITPC."

The Official LITPC Pins During the Stack Administration



Personal of the Presidency of Al Stack

Pins



Lion Richard “Dick” Lindelof, PDG

Stoughton, Massachusetts

Tenth LITPC President 1991 - 1993



PDG **Dick Lindelof** assumed the presidency of the LITPC during our 1991 Alternate Site Meeting (ASM) in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. When he took over, he told the attendees at our Annual Meeting in Hamilton that we needed to bring our constitution up-to-date. Also, another priority of his was the need to add a Legal Counsel as a voting member of the LITPC Board of Directors. He was greatly concerned about our ability to function properly without sound legal advice. Being a life long resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, he had that Yankee “can do” attitude about matters that were important to him. Evidence of that was when one of his first actions as President was to appoint what he called a “Blue Ribbon Committee” to study and rewrite the LITPC Constitution, and told them that he wanted results before he left office in 1993. The new LITPC Constitution was approved, without objections, by the membership during the ASM in Golden, Colorado.

Speaking of the ASM in Golden, the Pin Traders Club of Colorado invited the LITPC to the absolutely beautiful Rocky Mountains since there would be insufficient LITPC membership in attendance for the LCI convention in Korea. Close to 100 of our members descended upon the city of Golden, Colorado, a suburb of Denver. The location for the ASM was the Colorado School of Mines, which was close to the actual location of the MD-6, Colorado, State Convention. We were not swamped with convention attendees, but a good time was had by all since the more serious pin trading happened at the hotel where we were assigned. Also, the overwhelming majority of our members took advantage of the huge cookout that was the feature of the convention on one of the evenings while we were

there. The sight-seeing opportunities in one of the most beautiful states in America seem to have made up for the almost lack of interplay with the convention attendees. Arguably, the highlight for this gathering was the evening that the Coors Brewing Company opened up their doors to us for a magnificent tour of their facilities. To commemorate this event, the Pin Traders Club of Colorado and the Coors Brewing Company gave each guest a special pin. It has become a highly collectible item within pin trading circles because of the very limited issue. See the picture of the pin on page 5-1.

President Dick felt strongly that we had grown to the point that we should start producing some special celebrations every five years, beginning with the 20th. He appointed one of our legendary party guys, Lion **Bob Meyer** of Tennessee, to head up the effort. Unfortunately, Lion Dick was unable to attend that wonderful celebration during our Annual Meeting at the 1993 LCI Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Lion Dick passed away a few days after that from cancer, and the LITPC lost a truly outstanding leader.

The Official LITPC Pins During the Lindelof Administration



1992 Regular Issue



1992 Prestige 3-D



1993 3-D Issue

Lion William “Bill” Cooper
 Jacksonville, Florida
 Eleventh LITPC President 1993 - 1995



Lion **William R. “Bill” Cooper** of Jacksonville, Florida, became the eleventh president of the LITPC during the 1993 LCI convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Lion Bill, together with PDG **Ed Fogelman** of Washington State and Dr. **O. J. Ratcliff** of Arkansas, were the only Founding Members still active at the Board level. At the time of the founding of the LITPC, Lion Bill Cooper was an active Lion in the State of Missouri, and later moved to Florida, where he lived until his untimely passing in 2007.

The LITPC 20th Anniversary Party was staged in 1993 in Minneapolis under the chairmanship of LITPC 3rd Vice President, Lion **Bob Meyer** of Tennessee. Lion Bill Cooper, as the First Vice President, and in the absence of the ailing President **Dick Lindelof**, presided over the festivities, as well as the Board meetings.

One of the achievements during the Cooper administration was the formalization of the procedure whereby only the President or his designee were authorized to communicate, either verbally or in writing, with officials at LCI headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois. A little background here may be helpful in understanding why this is considered another step in the progress we have made over the years in improving our relationships with officials in Oak Brook. During the years preceding this, any member who felt the urge could initiate a line of communication by merely telling whomever they contacted in Oak Brook that they were the official point of contact. Often, individuals were making decisions and agreeing to matters that affected the entire LITPC, without the authority or knowledge of the LITPC Board of Directors. This led to some rather hard feelings on both sides. Obviously, this practice had to be stopped, and Lion Bill took pride in knowing that the change came about during his administration. Since then, we have enjoyed a much improved overall relationship with all parties at LCI headquarters.

After his presidency, Lion Bill was appointed by then LITPC President **Dave Harris** to be the LITPC Historian. He was specifically charged with the collection of data and material that could be used in the writing of the LITPC history. Although Lion Bill went so far as to develop a proposed historical summary, it was never approved by the LITPC Board of Directors for various reasons. To his credit, some of the material that he did accumulate has been incorporated into this historical accounting and for that reason, this publication has been dedicated to his memory.



LCI President Jim Coffey addresses the pin traders in Phoenix. L-R, PDG Bob Walker, Bill Cooper, President Jim, PDG Ed Fogelman, PCC Bill Smith



Personal Pins of President Bill Cooper



Lion Robert E. “Bob” Walker, PDG

Landrum, South Carolina
Twelfth LITPC President 1995-1997



PDG Bob Walker of South Carolina was elected as the twelfth President of the LITPC on May 26, 1995. His election took place at our Alternate Site Meeting in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, which was held in lieu of the LCI Convention in Seoul, Korea. In his remarks, as he accepted the presidency, Lion Bob said *“I am reminded of the many opportunities that as Lions we have in serving our fellow man. Since joining the LITPC, I have come to realize that we can become more dedicated Lions as we serve in the friendship and fellowship by trading pins.”* With this statement, Lion Bob established the following goals:

1. Establish a Membership and Retention Committee to address and increase our membership.
2. Have LITPC Board of Director Meetings at various pin swaps throughout the U.S.A.
3. Work with LCI to establish a working relationship and have the LITPC designated as a delegation at the LCI Conventions.

South Carolina Background

Lion Bob joined the Landrum Lions Club in February of 1975 and has held a number of positions at the Club, District, State, and Multiple District levels over the years. He served as President of the Landrum Lions Club in 1976-1977 and was elected District Governor of District 32A in 1979-1980. He has served since 1984 as the Secretary and Treasurer of the South Carolina Past District Governors Advisory Committee. He was selected as Lion of the Year of the Landrum Lions Club in 1977 and 1979, Lion of the Year for MD 32, South Carolina, in 1985, and was inducted into the South Carolina Lions Hall of Fame in 1990. He is a Melvin Jones Fellow and has been awarded 2 highly coveted International Presidents Awards.

Lion Bob married **Martha Johnson** in 1966, and they have one son and three grandchildren. He served in the USAF from 1965 to 1970 as an Instructor Pilot teaching students to fly fighter aircraft. He has been a successful insurance agency owner since 1975, and has been active in his church and other community service organizations. In 1992, Lion Bob was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives and served 16 years as one of its leaders. He rose to Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee and received many awards and recognitions for his leadership and service. In 2008, he was chosen as the Aviator of the Year in South Carolina and was inducted into the South Carolina Aviation Hall of Fame.

Achieving Success in His LITPC Goals

In 1995, Lion Bob’s first task was to appoint our Legal Counsel, Lion **Chuck Weldon**, to represent him and the LITPC at the USA-Canada Leadership Forum in Edmonton, Canada. Lion Chuck met with PIP **Joe Wroblewski** and then ID **Jim McCarty** of MD-22 to discuss how the LITPC could become a delegation at the LCI conventions. This would, of course, include having our own delegation hotel. It was agreed that the LITPC would give up the previously committed hotels that we had contracted for in Montreal and Philadelphia, and that we would turn these over to LCI. These hotels, under contract to LCI, would then be assigned to the LITPC as a part of a pilot program. President Bob pledged that the LITPC would fill 75 rooms in each hotel. It should be noted here that LCI was extremely impressed when the LITPC filled 95 rooms.

Toward his goal of having the LITPC Board Meeting at pin swaps, his first Board Meeting was held in Reno, Nevada, at the Western States Pin Swap in October 1995. All but two of the 19 members of the Board were present. In 1996, Board Meetings were held in Nashville, Tennessee at the Tennessee Pin Swap and in Branson, Missouri at the Midwest Pin Swap. In 1997, a Board Meeting was held in Orlando, in conjunction with the Florida Lions Pin Swap. It can be said that each of the meetings were highly successful and well attended by the members of the Board. Lion Bob created the position of Recording Secretary and appointed Lion **Terry Smith** of Virginia, who then continued in that position for the next 8 years.

The Passing of Past LITPC Leaders

The year of 1996 was also a very sad year for the LITPC when Past President, PID **Jim Shea** died in July and when one of our most ardent supporters and leaders, Past President, Dr. **O.J. Ratcliff** passed away in September. The LITPC would not have been as successful as it has been over the years without the leadership of these two outstanding Lions. Lion Bob has remarked several times that all the opportunities and the successes that he has achieved were due directly to the support that he gained from his association with “Doc” Ratcliff.

(Continued On Next Page)

Lion Robert E. "Bob" Walker, PDG

Twelfth LITPC President 1995-1997

A Matter of Policy

The LITPC Policy Manual governs the operation of the LITPC Board of Directors meetings. During the Walker administration, several important policy statements were approved, including one that established the voting rights of Past Presidents when they attend a Board Meeting; the establishment of the raffle of all LITPC contest pins to help offset the costs involved in the purchase of a plaque for each winner; the establishment of the LITPC convention headquarters hotel during the LCI annual conventions; and the prohibition of Board Members from making speeches on behalf of candidates during the nomination process.

In Summary

As a young man from the mountains of South Carolina, a husband and a father, a pilot in the USAF, a successful businessman, a leader in the South Carolina General Assembly, and the 12th President of the LITPC, Lion Bob Walker has made his presence and leadership felt in all that he has undertaken. He continues to serve as our Chaplain and in that capacity, he wants to make sure that all of our members receive their due recognition for services. It has been said by many that Lion Bob, with his courtly southern manners, is certainly the right man to lead us in the moving memorial services that he provides during our Annual Meeting and Breakfast. In ceremonies during the 2009 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Lion Bob became the 19th individual to be named to the LITPC Hall of Fame.

The Official LITPC Pins of the Walker Administration



1996



1997

The Personal Pins of President Bob Walker



It is noted here that Lion Bob has use a smaller version of the official LITPC pin for

continued each year since his presidency to the subject of a "Past President's"



year since his presidency to the subject of a "Past President's"

Lion Robert E. “Bob” Meyer

Clarksville, Tennessee
Thirteenth LITPC President 1997 - 1999



It's difficult sometimes to be objective when writing about a friend who passed away under the most trying of circumstances. Lion **Bob Meyer**, Tennessee, truly loved the LITPC in a way that it is almost impossible to express. He was diagnosed with leukemia early in 2003 and fought a battle for life that would have moved the strongest man to tears. That battle ended in October of 2004 when his body could no longer endure all the chemo and radiation treatments that he was subjected to on a regular basis. Up until those final days, his thoughts were constantly on getting better so he could continue his journey through life as an avid pin trader and a leader within the LITPC.

Lion Bob Meyer became the thirteenth president of the LITPC during the 1997 LITPC Meeting in Philadelphia. Although most everyone will remember Lion Bob as the trader from the great State of Tennessee, that was actually his adopted home. He originally was from the small town of Cochection, New York. He served in the U.S. Army and retired as a major. During this period of his life he met and married the love of his life, Lion **Carolyn Meyer**, who was originally from the State of Alabama. After his army career, the Meyer's settled in Clarksville, Tennessee, and became deeply involved in Lionism. This led to his joining the LITPC, where he quickly rose through the leadership ranks to the presidency.

The Party Organizer

To say that Bob Meyer loved a party is a gross understatement. He and Carolyn were personally responsible for our first big party, our 20th Anniversary in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where we honored the Founding Members of the LITPC. During his presidency, we celebrated our 25th Anniversary with Lion **Chuck Weldon** and Lions **Al** and **Kaye Stack** serving as our hosts in San Diego. Everyone who was there raved about the fantastic party to celebrate our 30th Anniversary party in Denver, Colorado. Yes, even though he was already hospitalized in Nashville, Tennessee, with leukemia, Bob and Carolyn had laid out all the plans for a “bobby sock” type of party. These are all documented elsewhere in this history. Without a doubt, one of the biggest attractions during any year was the Tennessee Pin Swap, which was originated by Bob and Carolyn. Folks from all over the U.S. and Canada automatically signed up for this annual event because they knew the Meyer's would produce a “party” worth attending. Primarily due to Bob's personality, he was able to convince traders from other States and areas within Lionism to provide the manpower that he needed to produce such a successful affair every year.

The Meyer Administration

We're certain that if he were alive, he would cover his two years in more detail since that's always the inclination when one has the opportunity to give you a first-hand account, as we have seen with his fellow (living) past presidents. Anyway, here are a few of the highlights of his administration, as documented by the LITPC “*Trading Post*” newsletters that were issued during his two years as our president.

Open Board Meetings

Prior to the Meyer administration, the LITPC Board of Directors Meetings were basically conducted behind closed doors in “executive session”. This meant that only the members of the Board were admitted to the room, with an occasional inclusion of non-Board members who had specific reports to make. Even then, these folks were excused after they gave their report. One of the first changes President Bob Meyer announced was that each Multiple District pin trading club would be entitled to have two observers present for each board meeting conducted during his two year term. This proved to be so successful, it has been continued to the present.

Collector's Delight

In the early days of Lion Bob's first year as president, the “*Beanie Baby Craze*” hit the U.S.A. like a bolt of lightning. On the way to the Alternate Site Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, a number of our members who were traveling by automobile, stretched their trips considerably by trying to stop at every McDonald's hamburger restaurant along the highway. That enterprising company had just introduced a miniature version of the little, lovable Beanie Babies and loads of our members felt they had to have every one of them. When the question was raised during our stay in Des Moines as to how many stops were made by those in attendance, Lions **Curt** and **Lucy Barnhill** of North Carolina, and Lion **Bill Prucha** of Illinois, were declared the “Beanie Baby Kings and Queens” of the LITPC. These folks stopped at every single McDonald's they saw.

(Continued on next page)

Lion Robert E. “Bob” Meyer

Thirteenth LITPC President 1997 - 1999

Civil War Series

The now rather famous Civil War Series was initiated simultaneously by the Pin Traders Club of Pennsylvania and the Pin Traders Club of Virginia. Almost every other recognized pin trading club in the U.S.A. joined these two pioneer clubs in their version of the American Civil War. Although the LITPC did not “officially” get involved, by the very nature of our pin trading community, the LITPC membership was deeply involved. This was the beginning of what now is referred to as the “series collections” and is covered in more detail elsewhere in this history. The phenomenon of the series brought about an injection of new life into the hobby like nothing else up to that point. Traders who had never thought about issuing a personal pin were now producing them at a hectic rate. Ultimately, there were over 1,400 individual pins issued during this initial series, and the fun and fellowship it brought to the hobby was simply without precedent.

Combine Pins

Another phenomenon that erupted during the Meyer administration was the introduction of what we now refer to as “combine pins”. This involves a number of traders (usually in excess of 10) joining together to issue a set of pins to help promote trading at a particular pin swap. This all got started in conjunction with the Alternate Site Meeting in Des Moines when a group of nine of our members from six different States put together a large Indian totem pole. The “father” of this idea was PDG **Larry Shaul** of Pennsylvania. The rule was that you must trade with each individual in the combine in order to complete the collection. This rule remains in effect today for most all combine pins. Once again, the idea was to help foster pin trading at the swaps and to introduce new trading relations on a continuing basis. You will be reading throughout this history about this category of pins, and you can also see pictures of many of them.

Dues Increase

One of the most dreaded administrative decisions that had to be made during the Meyer administration involved the raising of our annual dues. The newly elected LITPC Treasurer, Lion **Bill Sour** of Colorado, discovered early in his first term that if we didn’t bite the bullet, so to speak, we were headed toward virtual bankruptcy. As difficult as it is anytime you ask the membership to approve such a move, it was rather surprising that the general feeling was that raising the dues from \$10.00 a year to \$15.00 was a necessary evil. Thanks in part to the leadership of President Bob and Lion Bill Sour, the move was made with a minimum loss of membership.

25th Anniversary

As you will read and see pictures elsewhere in this history, the LITPC celebrated our 25th Anniversary in San Diego, California as President Bob was turning over the reins to his successor, Lion **Dave Harris** of Virginia. The feature event for this “dress up” party was the “retirement” of two of our most dedicated administrative members, PDG **Ed Fogelman** and his wife, Lioness **Dorothy**. This celebration can easily be described as bringing a definite touch of class to the organization. It’s not often you see the pin traders all dressed up, but for this event, they all looked “real spiffy”, as President Bob put it. This was a beautiful finish to a wonderful two years of our thirteenth president, Lion Bob Meyer.



1998
1999 San
Des Moines, Iowa

Regular
Alternate
Diego, Cali-
Birming-



1998
Site
fornia
ham,



Issue
Meeting
England

Lion David E. “Dave” Harris
Providence Forge, Virginia
Fourteenth LITPC President 1999 - 2001



Dave Harris of Virginia was elected the fourteenth President of the LITPC at the San Diego, California Convention on June 29, 1999. The main topic at the Breakfast meeting was the increase in dues from \$10.00 to \$15.00 a year. We lost several members because of the dues increase but the immediate past board did not have another option as the financial condition was unstable. Lion Dave's goals for his tenure were to improve our financial position, get a firm grip on the membership numbers, solidify our relationship with LCI, appoint a Chaplain to keep us informed of the deceased members and to provide the invocation at the meetings, and, to start a History of the LITPC by appointing a LITPC Historian. The first Board meeting was held on Thursday, 1 July, where the committees and goals were presented to the rest of the Board. The next Board meeting would be held in Hawaii at the International Convention.

The retirement of Lion **Ed** and **Dorothy Fogelman** lead to changes in the Secretary and Treasurer positions. Lion **Bill Sour** of Colorado was elected as Treasurer with no opposition and after many hours of conversations with advisor, Lion **James De Rouchey** of Texas and President Dave, we started a Line Item Budget/Financial accounting system. **Bill Smith** of Virginia had been the Newsletter Editor for many years but the printing, sorting and mailing were being accomplished in Washington State by the Fogelman's. The distribution of the newsletter moved to Virginia at the home of **Bill** and **Terry Smith** where the LITPC Newsletter basically

took over their home for a few weeks before each quarterly distribution. Bill was able to obtain much better pricing for the printing which greatly helped to improve our financial position. Lion **Paul Greenfield** of Australia, was elected as a Director to the Board and took care of the distribution for Australia and New Zealand saving the club even more money. Paul Greenfield was the first overseas member elected to the board and President Dave had the great pleasure of working with him. In addition, Lion **Deryck Chambers** of England, took over distribution of the newsletter for England and Ireland in much the same manner as Paul did for Australia.

Lion **Gary Shepherd** of Mississippi was elected to the position of Secretary, also with no opposition, and had started computerizing the membership before he was elected. This was a very frustrating couple of years of attempting to develop membership labels and membership rosters and to maintain member's data with little funding or computer programs not really designed for our data recording/printing.

Although this was a very stormy beginning of President Dave's years, things would calm down as the financial position improved, membership records showed some glimmer of light, the LITPC Historian started accumulating documents, newsletters became the glue for the club, and all the committees started effectively functioning. While the first year was now behind President Dave, we started working on our relations with LCI by opening lines of communications with the Manager of Club Supplies, who was appointed as the Liaison with LITPC. At the 2000 International Convention in Hawaii, sitting LCI President **Jim Irvin** of Georgia attended our Annual Tuesday morning Breakfast and provided some words of encouragement for our members. The next day VP's **Bill Prucha** of Illinois, **Chuck Weldon** of California, LCI Club Manager **Ralph Mosner** and President Dave had a very open luncheon meeting. Past President **Bob Walker** took over the Chaplain position like he was made for this job, taking care of the Memorial Service for deceased members and the entire task a Chaplain needed to provide. The Annual Breakfast was conducted in the Pacific Beach Hotel, which was not our Delegation Hotel. Amazingly, everyone found the Breakfast, and on time, thanks to the Board Members who provided early morning directions. Second VP **Jim Schiebel** with his wife, **Donna**, provided excellent Hospitality rooms for the two years, with Hawaii being more of a challenge. Thanks to a local member, Lion **Steve Yoshimura**, for his the support and guidance.

The two Board meetings in Hawaii were early morning meetings and were held in the Executive Suite of the Hawaiian Waikiki Beach Hotel overlooking Waikiki Beach. This was also the beginning of serving coffee, juice, and Danish at the Board meetings. I might add that only one side of the table for the Board meeting could see the beach, but on the Thursday morning meeting, the Board Members sat on the opposite side to allow the other board members a nice view. There was probably a little daydreaming on the part of some of the Board Members during both meetings. A New Ethics Committee was added to the Board for year 2000-2001, and was chaired by our Legal Counsel and 2nd VP, Lion **Chuck Weldon** of California. The purpose of this committee was to investigate ethics complaints and report their findings to the board for action. Lion **Bob Libin** of New York was tasked to look into the possibility of an LITPC website and the initial work on developing a website. The next Board Meeting would not be until the Indianapolis International Convention in 2001.

Lion David E. “Dave” Harris Fourteenth LITPC President 1999 - 2001

The financial condition was greatly improved the second year. However, we were still struggling with the membership records due to a combination of communication and computer problems but we still made progress. Lion **Terry Smith** of Virginia provided the duties of Recording Secretary and made sure the minutes were in proper order. Lion **Alex Caldwell** of Virginia suggested to me that we form a Pin Trader Hall of Fame. I thought this was a great concept and promptly asked 2VP **Chuck Weldon** to Chair the committee and hopefully have something for the LITPC Board Meeting in Indianapolis. The Hall of Fame concept was not formalized or approved until several years later.

Work began on improving our relationship with LCI. After many e-mails and phone conversations, a meeting was arranged for November. Since most of the LITPC Board members would be in Winchester, Virginia for the Virginia Pin Swap, LCI thought it best to have the meeting near Dulles Airport in Virginia. So on Friday, November 10, 2000, LCI International Director **William A. Broughton** of Tennessee, LCI General Council and Secretary **Gary La Pinta** and LCI Manager of Club Supply and Distribution Division **Ralph Mosner**, arrived at Dulles around 10 AM. President Dave and 1st VP **Bill Prucha** were the greeting party for the LITPC. Lion **Harry Fulwiler III** graciously volunteered his home and hospitality in Manassas for the “Summit Meeting” as it was called by President Dave. Lion Harry did a great job of waiting on the participants and also served as “the fly on the wall” at the meeting. In addition to President Dave, LITPC Board Members involved in the meeting were 1st VP **Bill Prucha**, Bulletin Editor **Bill Smith**, Director **Bob Libin**, and Harry Fulwiler. Our 2nd VP and Legal Council, Chuck Weldon, had a conflict and Bob Libin represented us as our Legal Council. An agenda had been formulated by Ralph Mosner of LCI and President Dave. The meeting went very well with both sides contributing and obtaining a better understanding of the issues. The agenda included overall problems of emblem abuse; review of LCI’s current methods of dealing with emblem abuse; what is a trading pin and what is not a trading pin; T.C. Chen Case; LCI’s Trading Pin Licensee Program; selling of trading pins; disposition of sample pins, and the role of The International Association of Pin Traders Club. There will be a separate section on the meeting later in this history. The meeting was adjourned, with LCI inviting all for lunch at a local restaurant. Bill Prucha and I returned our visitors to Dulles for their 5 PM flights back home. There were a lot of communications for the next several months between LCI and LITPC. It should be noted that the LCI April, 2001 Board Meeting established a policy that pins older than 3 years could be sold without intervention from LCI.

The 2001 LCI Convention was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, where we were assigned a very expensive hotel. We requested another location and were assigned to the Crowne Plaza. That was the first year the LITPC Delegation Hotel was truly within walking distance to the Convention Center. That was a very interesting hotel, using an old train station as part of the hotel, and we had our very own train that traveled through the hotel.

The pin trading tables had become expensive for LCI to provide and it was decided that the 2001 Convention would be the first year of renting tables in the pin trading area. It was not very well received by the membership, but our members acknowledged the position of LCI and rented 96 tables the first year. The table rental fee was about one half the fees the vendor charged LCI with LCI funding the other half.

Everything began working about as smoothly as it could and President Dave joked that he was able to turn over the gavel to his successor, Lion **Bill Prucha**, without being impeached before his term ended. There were a lot of adjustments to our operations during President Dave’s two years and our Officers/Directors did a totally outstanding job in accomplishing their tasks. President Dave gave thanks to all the members who accepted positions during his two years, and to all of his friends in the Virginia pin traders (PTCV) who supported him 150%. As President Dave stated when he stepped down “It was my pleasure to serve.”

The official LITPC pins of the Harris Administration



2000 Issue
Honolulu, Hawaii



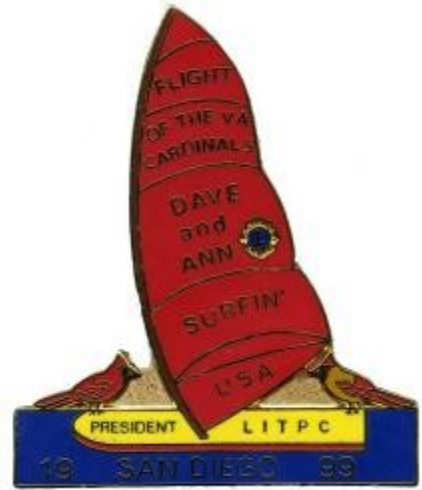
2001 Issues
Indianapolis, Indiana

See next page for pictures of
President Dave’s personal
pins issued during his Presidency

Lion David E. "Dave" Harris
Fourteenth LITPC President 1999 - 2001



This pin was issued in President Dave's honor by his home pin trading club, the Pin Traders Club of Virginia.



Dave issued to selected support during his two

years as LITPC President.

This was a recognition pin that President Individuals in appreciation for exceptional

Lion William J. “Bill” Prucha
Chicago, Illinois
Fifteenth LITPC President 2001 - 2003



Lion **Bill Prucha** of Illinois became the fifteenth President of the LITPC during the 84th LCI Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. In his opening address to the assembled members at our Annual Meeting, Lion Bill said *“I will give you my very best effort, and I trust that you know that my door is always open to each of you. If you have suggestions, comments, advice, or whatever, I hope that you will not hesitate to let me know. Together, we can build upon the many improvements that have already been accomplished by my predecessors in this position.”* With this rather simple yet meaningful opening, Lion Bill proved once again that he would continue to be the Lions Lion that he has always been. He came into the leadership role as one of the best known pin traders in the organization and he made it his personal goal to encourage growth by maintaining a spirit of fun and fellowship that attracted him into the LITPC back in 1980.

Lion Bill first joined the Thornton Lions Club in Chicago in 1973 and has served his Club in most all of the positions of leadership, including being their President.. He was honored by his Club in 1991 with their first Melvin Jones Fellow. In 2003, he received the Illinois Foundation Fellow, and has received 22 District Governor Appreciation Awards, 20 District Chairman Awards, and 2 Illinois State Chairman Awards.

Lion Bill has been married to his wife, Virginia, since 1963 and in that time he has seen his immediate family grow to 2 children, 10 grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren, and 2 great, great grandchildren. He and Virginia maintain their residence in the heart of Chicago and he absolutely loves ‘Da Bears’. When the LCI Convention was in Chicago in 2007, he obviously became the focal point for assistance and advice to the LITPC leadership in the many, many administrative arrangements that had to be made during the duration of that convention. As always, he didn’t know how to say “no” to anyone.

New International Policy

Although the groundwork was laid in Lion Bill’s predecessor’s (Lion **Dave Harris**) year, the actual LCI policy change on the selling of pins was announced in *“The Lion”* magazine in October of 2001. This concerned the determination that pins that are older than three years are now considered to be “collectibles”, thus legitimizing the selling of our older pins. As we have already described in some detail, the leadership of the LITPC and LCI agreed that we would do everything in our power to discourage the selling of new pins (3 years or newer) and as a tradeoff, LCI would recognize that the “collectibles” could be sold at market price, whatever that may be.



30th Anniversary Party. The Colorado Lions Pin Trading Club sponsored what many have called the greatest party in our young history. The theme was a “Bobby Sox Dream”, with an emphasis on the music of the 1950s. There were prizes for the couple whose dress for the occasion best exemplified the era of the “bobby sox” craze of the 50s, as well as for the best dressed individual. Snapshots for this event can be found elsewhere in this history. One of the “nuts” that evening was President Bill himself, as evidenced by the photo to the left. The Chicago “kool kat” of that era certainly comes out in his getup.

9-11 Attack

President Bill Prucha proved his leadership when he addressed the membership about the effects of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. In his message in the Fall issue of the LITPC *“Trading Post”*, he stated that *“The enormity of the attack on our very way of life has been almost too much for many of us to truly comprehend. Our lives will probably never be the same.”* He recognized that although the attack was on the U.S.A., he stated that *“I shall never forget the support that we received from people and nations from all over the world.”* He recognized the tremendous advantage that pin traders have within this hobby — it gives us an escape from the somber things that happen around us every day.

Lion William J. “Bill” Prucha
Fifteenth LITPC President 2001 - 2003

Lion Bill Prucha’s presidency included the Alternate Site Meeting in Ocean City, Maryland and the LCI convention in Denver, Colorado. Here are the LITPC pins that were issued during his two years, as well as his personal pin.



Green Base Issued to All Who Were Present



Blue Base Issued to All Party Attendees



White Base Issued to Board Members



President Bill’s Personal Pin

A direct quotation from the Summer 2008 issue of the LITPC newsletter, “The Trading Post”.

“We must tell you that the LITPC Hall of Fame Committee has once again ‘hit a home run’ in their selection of the latest inductee into the Hall. It was so obvious to anyone in attendance during the Annual Meeting in Jefferson City, Missouri, that when the name of Past LITPC President **William J. “Bill” Prucha** was announced, the love and affection for this man rose to the surface. We witnessed a lot of wet eyes in that crowd when Bill struggled to maintain control of his emotions. When he was asked to say something, he limited his remarks to a very few words for fear that he might, as he said, ‘totally lose it’

We realize his induction as the 16th member of the LITPC Hall of Fame was several years after his term of office as our president. However, we thought it might help to explain the esteem that this man is held within the pin trading community.

Charles R. “Chuck” Weldon
Paramount, California
Sixteenth LITPC President 2003 - 2005



Before his untimely passing in 2007, Lion **Chuck Weldon** managed to prepare a few notes about his two-year term as President of the LITPC. He started off by saying that he had been in the organization for over 20 years and had served as our Legal Counsel, Director, Vice President, and then had the honor of serving as our 16th President. He mentioned a few members in particular who were either inspirational to him or who gave him significant assistance. First, he named the late PDG **Mike Turcone**, Rhode Island, who was instrumental in helping him to understand the nature of pin trading and friendships. Next, he mentioned the late PDG Dr **O. J. Ratcliff**, Arkansas. “Doc” Ratcliff was most generous and helpful when Lion Chuck began trading pins. He taught him the ways of fair pin trading and honesty and dealing with all pin traders. Lion Chuck indicated that he missed him a very great deal and was sorry that he was not around for advice during the two years of the Weldon presidency. He indicated that he wished to acknowledge and thank PCC **Bill Smith**, Virginia. He stated that “without the leadership of Bill and the firm foundation that he imposed on the LITPC, we would have no organization.” Another special person was Past President **Dave Harris**, Virginia. Lion Chuck indicated that he was fortunate to have Dave in the role as Liaison with LCI. “He did a fabulous job and has cemented our relationship with LCI through his diligent efforts and direct involvement.” Lastly, he acknowledged the efforts of Past President Lion **Al Stack**, California. Lion Al involved Chuck in pin trading in a very early time with the California Pin Traders. Lion Chuck indicated that Lion Al had remained one of his closest associates in the pin trading community over the years.

There were obviously many other pin traders who had an impact on his involvement in pin trading, but those mentioned above were the ones that he specifically cited.

One of the major emphasis that Lion Chuck instituted during his presidency was assigning the LITPC Directors the responsibility of contacting members who had allowed their membership to become delinquent. Lion Chuck felt that retention was just as much a problem in the pin trading community as it is throughout Lionism. He also charged the Directors to find innovative ways for attracting new members. One of the ways that Lion Chuck himself initiated was the design of a special presidential pin that would be given only to new members and to the sponsors of new members. He indicated that we attracted 80 new members in this program and was proud that when his term ended, those members were still on the rolls.

The LITPC web site, with Lion **Lane Opkins**, California, as the web master, was once again introduced. Unfortunately, there was a lack of cooperation that was essential for success, particularly since Lion Lane was not a pin trader. He had agreed to provide the service with the understanding that the pin traders would provide the contents. This never really happened and the results were as expected. The web site did not enjoy the impact that Lion Chuck had envisioned. As you will see later, the web site, with web master, PCC **Phil Schrack**, Virginia, finally became more of the factor that Lion Chuck had hoped it would under his administration.

Lion Chuck took great pride in knowing that the comprehensive growth and stability of the organization could be traced in many regards to his involvement in the process. He was so pleased that we had attained financial strength and had improved our relations with LCI to the point of being recognized as a separate delegation at the LCI conventions. The fact that we are being assigned on a regular basis to some of the finest hotels in a convention city was proof enough for him. The fact that those hotels were almost always the closest to the convention centers was a bonus that could not be overlooked. The mutual respect that we have earned with the leadership within Lionism goes back several years, but the fact that Lion Chuck was a part of that effort was something that was very special to him.

There is no doubt that this accounting of the Chuck Weldon administration would have been greatly different had he been with us. Sadly, he succumbed to a massive heart attack on May 25, 2007 at his home in Paramount, California. The impact of his sudden and totally unexpected death left a pall over the organization during the Annual Meeting in Chicago at the 2007 LCI Convention. To have lost such a significant leader without any advance warning was, to say the least, a tremendous shock to us all.

Charles R. "Chuck" Weldon
 Sixteenth LITPC President 2003 - 2005

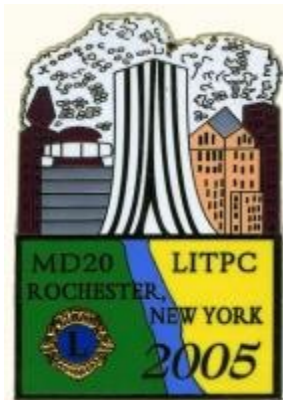


Outgoing LITPC President, Lion Bill Prucha, Illinois, congratulates Incoming LITPC President, Lion Chuck Weldon, California.

The Official LITPC Pins of the Weldon Administration

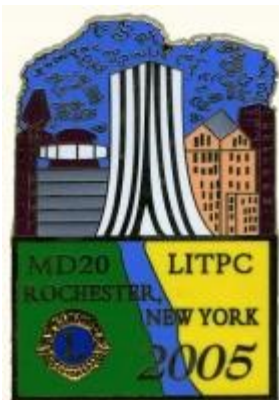


These are the three pins that were issued by the New York & Bermuda Pin Trading Club for our 2005 Alternate Site Meeting in Rochester, New York.

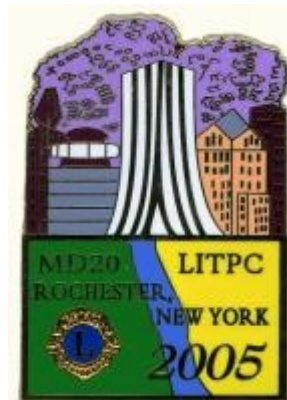


Blue Top - Board Attendees

White Mem-



Top bers -



All Purple Top - Attendees Breakfast



Pin bers/sponsors.



Presi- for new



This pin was given by Lion Chuck to each member of the LITPC Board during the 1999 LCI Convention. He served as host and it is shown here merely to document all of the pins that we are aware of that include the "LITPC" designation. Because it was a very limited issue, the pin may not be easily found by the membership. It is identical to the regular LITPC issue for that year, except it has a gold background and the original has a white background.

dent Chuck's mem-

James R. Schiebel, PCC
Hilton, New York
Seventeenth LITPC President 2005 - 2007



PCC **Jim Schiebel** was installed as the Seventeenth President of the LITPC during the Alternate Site Meeting (ASM) in Rochester, New York in May 2005. As a matter of historical significance, Lion Jim was not only the first LITPC president to be installed at his home Multiple District convention, he may very well be the only one to be able to claim that honor. The LITPC policy that required us to conduct our ASMs in conjunction with multiple district conventions has since been revoked, thus the possibility of this happening again is extremely remote.

Alternate Site Meeting in Rochester, New York

The Lilac Festival held in Rochester during that period was featured on the pins that were available to the LITPC membership in attendance. The convention registration pin had purple lilacs, while the same pin with white lilacs were given by the Pin Traders Club of New York & Bermuda to all who attended our annual breakfast. A third version of the pin with blue lilacs was given to all who attended the LITPC Board Meeting. All of these pins may be viewed in the coverage given elsewhere on ASMs.

Some of the highlights of the Rochester meeting included the wonderful vocal group from the Merion Williams Middle School. These young people provided background music entertainment during the breakfast, which was certainly a first for the LITPC. In addition, there was a record set for the number of entries in our Annual LITPC Pin Contest. All of these pins, together with a goodly number of pins provided by Recognition Services of Indianapolis, Indiana, were included in the pin raffle that annually

brings in funds to help offset the expenses associated with the contest, as well as other expenses that are incurred during such gatherings.

Membership Involvement

Lion Jim took the extraordinary steps to increase involvement in LITPC affairs by appointing 66 members to various committees and activities throughout his two-year administration. This represented about 9% of the total membership and was, at the time, the most that have ever been asked to work or become involved in our affairs. In another move to increase membership involvement, President Jim appointed a committee to look into the possibility of our becoming a regular parade delegation. In this connection, LCI determined that this would not be feasible unless they opened the parade to all entities of the organization. Increasing membership involvement was also behind the move to provide LITPC support for those who live outside of North America when they are promoting pin trading. An excellent example of this was the 2006 Europa Lions Leadership Forum when PDG **Deryck Chambers** and several members of the British Isles and Ireland Trading Pin Club requested our assistance in obtaining a membership booth.

President Jim was particularly proud of the fact that the first LCI sanctioned seminar by active pin traders was given during the LCI Convention in Chicago in 2007. Lion **Harry Fulwiler**, Virginia, with assistance from PCC **Phil Schrack**, Virginia, developed and presented a two-hour slide and commentary show. This truly outstanding presentation was later duplicated and discs were provided to each of the several multiple district pin trading clubs for their use during conventions and conferences in their respective areas.

During his two-year term, President Jim provided a very special membership pin to new members, as well as to their sponsors. Further, he travelled extensively throughout the U.S.A. to as many pin swaps as he could possibly attend. The significance of this is better understood when one considers that during this period, Lion Jim was the Guiding Lion for his local college Lions Club, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of a Summer School Program for Special Education Students, the Vice President of the MD-20 Organization of Past District Governors, Membership Chair for the North America Conference of Lions Camps, and Newsletter Editor for PTCNY&B. He was also active as a volunteer fireman in his local area.

LCI Shifts Site for the International Convention

In an unprecedented move, LCI was forced to change the venue of their 2006 annual convention from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Boston, Massachusetts. This was brought about because of the massive destruction of New Orleans during hurricane Katrina in late 2005. Because of the extensive damage to all parts of the city, it would have been impossible to move forward with any plans for a convention of the size that is associated with LCI. Unfortunately, by the time the decision was made, the LITPC had already initiated action to design a pin featuring a New Orleans theme. The decision was then made to keep the same design in honor of New Orleans and simply change the name on the pin from New Orleans to Boston.



(Continued Next Page)

James R. Schiebel, PCC

Seventeenth LITPC President 2005 - 2007

Channels of Communications

An unfortunate situation developed during President Jim's administration that involved a misunderstanding that could have damaged our excellent relationships with LCI. One of our members attempted to organize pin traders to put pressure on LCI to create a room to display Lions pins at their headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois. President Jim sent a letter to then International President **Jimmy Ross**, Texas, to assure him that LITPC official communications emanate only from himself or his designated International Liaison Officer, Past President **Dave Harris**, Virginia. Any other communication from an individual member is merely an expression of the individual and not the LITPC. President Jim was concerned that unless this was made very clear, we could lose many of the special advantages that we presently enjoy and which have been developed over an extended period of time.

Special Recognition

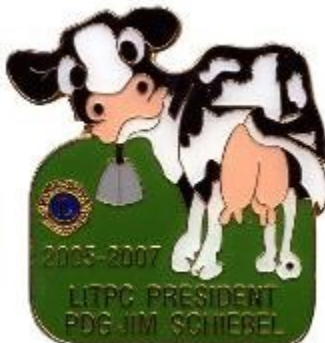
In Boston, President Jim recognized PDG **Paul Greenfield** and PDG **Deryck Chambers**, England, for their public relations efforts, and PDG **Ron Jordan**, Missouri, PDG **Jim Minnich**, and Lion **Harry Fulwiler** for their outstanding efforts toward membership development. During his final meeting in Chicago as our President, Lion Jim recognized a number of members for their service to the pin trading community. PDG **Amos Shatzer**, Pennsylvania, Lion **Joe Trezza**, California, **Jim DeRouchey**, Texas, PCC **Bill Smith**, Virginia, **Chuck Weldon** and **Dick and Lorna Hall**, California, PDG **Jerry Romig**, Missouri, and Lion **Verle Malik**, Virginia, were all given medals for their work in documenting pins with catalogs. Each member of the LITPC Board of Directors were given a beautiful glass Statue of Liberty bottle filled with New York State maple syrup and an engraved "Thank You" metal tag that was attached thereto. Finally, Lion Jim and his First Lady, **Donna**, presented to the LITPC, a flag display with a flag representing each of the 20 countries that our members call home. Lion Jim wrapped it up when he reminded all "*We are Lions first and pin traders second. It was an honor to serve the LITPC.*"

The Official LITPC Pins of the Schiebel Administration



NOTE: The smaller pin to the left was introduced to give members a special memento of the year. Each member could purchase only one.

Personal Pins of President Jim Schiebel



NOTE: This pin was issued by the Pin Traders Club of New York & Bermuda in honor of their member while he was President of the LITPC.

Larry L. Shaull, PDG
York, Pennsylvania
Eighteenth LITPC President 2007 - 2009



Our Eighteenth President, PDG **Larry Shaull** of Pennsylvania, concentrated almost his entire two-year term to leading the LITPC to a heretofore unprecedented level of achievement in raising funds for the good of mankind. We are speaking of the tremendously successful *Campaign Sight First II Project* undertaken by the LITPC at the beginning of Lion Larry's presidency. The details and the pictures that record the events associated with this effort are fully covered in Chapter 6 of this history. To avoid a lot of repetition, we refer you to that chapter which, we believe, more than adequately documents the years 2007 through 2009.

The huge gavel wielded by President Larry in the picture to the left is certainly symbolic of the magnitude and success of his two years as our president. A few other pictures from the big celebration that occurred in Minneapolis, Minnesota, during the 2009 LITPC Annual Meeting are shown below.



President Larry presenting Lion Art Lewis of Tennessee a Melvin Jones Fellow honor during the Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. This was just one of several that were presented to individuals who went far beyond what was expected of them during the CSF II Project.



The President and his Legal Counsel.
President Larry Shaull poses with LITPC Legal Counsel, PDG Bob Libin, New York, during the awards ceremony at the Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Larry L. Shaull
Eighteenth LITPC President 2007 - 2009



LCI President Al Brandel presents LITPC President Larry Shaull with the Crystal Lion Award for Excellence in support of the CSF II Project. Past LCI President Frank Moore is seen between Brandel and Shaull, and Past LCI President T. S. Lee, applauds on the right.



President Larry, assisted by his wife, Lion Marcia (arrow), presents each attendee at the Breakfast a special pin in recognition of their attendance.



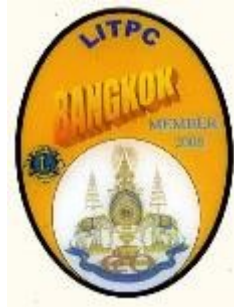
LITPC Past Presidents, the Legal Counsel, and the Webmaster support President Larry Shaull during the Annual Meeting and Breakfast in Minneapolis.



LITPC Treasurer Harry Fulwiler, Secretary Lana McCaulley, 2nd VP Jim Minnich, and LITPC Past President and Breakfast Chairman Bill Smith at the head table.

Larry L. Shaull
Eighteenth LITPC President 2007 - 2009

Official LITPC Pins of the Shaull Administration

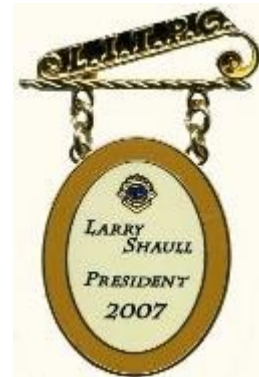


President



Personal Pins

Larry's Per-



William “Bill” Sour
Westminster, Colorado
Nineteenth LITPC President 2009 - 2011



Where does one begin to write about two of the best years of ones life. Actually, it's about 21 fantastic years, so I may as well begin at the beginning.

I really don't know all of the details of how or who nominated me for a directors position on the LITPC Board of Directors. What I do remember is Past LITPC President Dr. O.J. "Doc" Ratcliff calling in 1990 to inform me that I was on the ballot in St. Louis, Missouri with five other pin traders. By the way, "Doc" Ratcliff was THE man in those days and when he called you about nominations, you paid attention. Anyway, I was surprised to be one of the three traders to be elected that year.

At the conclusion of my two year term as director, some on the LITPC Board approached me about becoming LITPC Secretary. I agreed, was elected, and served on the Board continuously as Secretary, Treasurer, and through the chairs to the Presidency.

I had the good fortune to witness many changes and accomplishments by the LITPC. So as 2008 turned into 2009, I began to plan for my two years as President. With the huge advances my predecessors made for the LITPC, and the tremendous conclusion of Past President **Larry Shaul's** Campaign Sight First II (CSF II) efforts, I was a little nervous. My goals became very simple. Follow through on our notoriety from CSF II to further raise awareness of what a great organization the LITPC is, and build and strengthen our membership. *I can proudly say we accomplished both!!*

The LITPC rented exhibit space at the U.S.A.-Canada Leadership Forum in Memphis, Tennessee in September of 2009. Our purpose was primarily to attract new members. We attracted over 30 new members during that week., but more importantly, our Club gained invaluable publicity. We had many favorable conversation with the Lions Clubs International Board members and with Past LCI Presidents. Based on this success, we followed with a similar success at the 2010 Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

I turned to my First Vice President and Membership Chair, PDG **Jim Minnich** of Delaware, to determine a plan to increase membership. What a job he did! We set a goal of 300 new members in a two-year time frame. We exceeded 300 in the first year! Lion Jim's plan is now the plan for his term as LITPC President, as well as the plan for Second Vice President, PCC **Paul Viano** of Massachusetts.

As proud as I am that we accomplished our goals, the most enjoyable part of my term was the Summer of 2010. With the 2010 LCI convention being held in Sydney, Australia, an Alternate Site for our Annual Meeting was needed. What a great feeling to preside over such a meeting in my home state. I also had the privilege of presiding over the first LITPC meeting held outside of North America. I, along with five other LITPC Board Members, conducted an LITPC Breakfast in Sydney. We were joined by 58 pin traders from the U.S., Australia, Great Britain, New Zealand, and Italy. One of the highlights of this meeting was the induction of PDG **Paul Greenfield** of Australia into the LITPC Hall of Fame. Lion Paul is the first-ever inductee from outside the U.S.A. to have been so honored. His induction was obviously well-received by his fellow members from down under. Lion Paul has not only been a significant factor within the scheme of things for the LITPC, he has been a major player in helping to guide the Australian pin traders to the dynamic position they enjoy within our pin trading family.

You know I must tell you that being the young kid on the block, so to speak, when I first joined the LITPC and rising through the ranks to the Presidency, I have been so impressed with the dedication of so many people who have the same interests that I have come to enjoy in pin trading. We often speak of the "family aspect" of this hobby and that's not just a lot of talk — that's a fact. Initially I had a very few what I would call true pin trading friends in my home state. I now can brag rather proudly that I can go to most any part of the U.S.A. and know for sure that there is a pin trader whom I consider part of my pin trading family. If I'm in need of a place to spend the night or to just have someone to share a meal with, I know that there will be a pin trader that I can depend on. I often think how fortunate we are to be a part of such an organization as the LITPC and how sorry I feel for all those Lions out there who have no idea what they are missing by not being a pin trader.

Well, writing about ones self is not the easiest thing and I know that I probably should be giving credit to a whole lot of folks for helping me to get to this point in my pin trading life. However, one of my good friends told me that I should be careful to avoid forgetting someone if I chose to take that route. There are just simply too many of you who have helped me in more ways than I could possibly tell you and I honestly believe the best approach will be to not get into the naming game. I can tell each of you, and you know who you are, that I shall be forever grateful for your assistance and I just hope that you know that I stand ready to return the favor, without question.

I would like to wrap this up by letting my wife, Judy, know how much I appreciate her understanding and patience with me. I know that there have been times, particularly in the last two years, that I have not always been where I should have been for her and I have often let my enthusiasm for this hobby get in the way of my "honey-do" projects. However, Judy has continually been my strongest supporter and has been THE key that has opened up the opportunity for me to serve you as the President of the LITPC.

William "Bill" Sour
Nineteenth LITPC President 2009 - 2011

The official LITPC pins of the Sour Administration



NOTE: The pin to the left is the first LITPC pin to be issued for our annual Breakfast.

President Bill's Personal Pins





James "Jim" Minnich, PDG

Wilmington Delaware
Twentieth President 2011-2013

Lion Jim Minnich became the 20th LITPC President at the International Convention in Seattle, Washington in 2011. Based entirely on Lion Jim's presentation before his initial LITPC Board of Directors Meeting, the LITPC Scholarship Program was born.

Mission Statement

The Lions International Trading Pin Club (LITPC) Youth Scholarship Program was established to foster the continuing education of a high school senior. The goal is to help our future leaders and to give them a financial helping hand. Students eligible to apply are the children and the grandchildren of Lions, Lionesses, and Leo's. The amount of the scholarship is \$2,500.00.

Vision Statement

The scholarship is funded by members of the LITPC. The fund raising program is a six year effort to generate sufficient funds to make the program self-sustaining. It is the hope that every member of the LITPC will participate in this program. The slogan of the LITPC is "Lions First".

To fund the scholarship program, the LITPC Board of Directors established a William A. Smith Fellowship Recognition Program, which was named after the only surviving and active member from 1973, the year the LITPC was founded. He is also a past president of the LITPC. Recognition levels for the program were established for donations as follows:



\$100.00
Pewter Recognition Pin



\$250.00
Copper Recognition Pin



\$500.00
Silver Recognition Pin



\$750.00
Gold Recognition Pin



The pins accurately

above

to a William A. Smith Fellowship Trophy

The following pins are given for Progressive WAS donations:



\$2,000.00
One Diamond Progressive Pin



\$3,000.00
Two Diamond Progressive Pin



\$4,000.00
Three Diamond Progressive Pin

\$1,000.00
William A. Smith Trophy
NOT TO ACTUAL SIZE

All pin trading clubs were requested to inform their respective area of the scholarships and to seek applicants. A list of guidelines were furnished to the pin trading clubs and the clubs were asked to choose two applicants to be forwarded to the Scholarship Committee which would choose a winner.

All application forms, requirements, and procedures are annually published on the LITPC website and the LITPC newsletter, "The Trading Post". The eventual winners are announced at the LITPC Annual Meeting and Breakfast and are also covered on the LITPC website and newsletter. The first winner was Breanna Lincoski of Pennsylvania, and the second winner was Patricia Mook of Virginia.

Lion Jim Minnich, PDG
Twentieth LITPC President 2011 - 2013

To promote the scholarship program, a special brochure was developed to be distributed at swaps and placed on the LITPC website. It includes a list of all William A. Smith Fellows in the order in which they were presented, with the first one going to William A. Smith. In addition, there are numerous pictures of presentations of the various awards as well as a listing of the pin trading clubs that have participated in the program.

During Lion Jim's term as President of the LITPC, there were two special scholarship fund raisers initiated. A special LITPC Scholarship "Lions First" pin was produced and is numbered 1 to 100 and is shown below. A novel approach was used by President Jim. At the breakfast of a swap, he explained about the pin during his pitch for the program and individual members would hold up \$100 and yell "over here". Lion Jim would then run across the room collecting the money and taking the individuals name down so he could present the pin at a later date. This proved to be a highly successful means for raising funds and a quick way to "sell" the 100 exclusive pins. A second fund raiser was the LITPC Scholarship "Lions First" medallion which was also numbered 1 to 100. Original LITPC 100 "Lions First" participants were given the first opportunity to purchase one of the medallions. A blue version was also made available but it was not numbered. The medallion is also shown below.



LITPC
100 Medallion
(Numbered on Back)



LITPC
100 Pin



LITPC
100 Medallion
(Unnumbered)

The LITPC Scholarship Program can only be measured in terms of giving a helping hand to our future leaders. Every member can take pride in the success of a Program such as this which truly shows the we really are "Lions First."

Now to other items of interest during Lion Jim's two years at the helm of the LITPC. We increased our visibility by supporting International President Tam's "Tree Planting Program". A special LITPC tree planting pin was issued to members for their participation in planting trees during this period. Nearly 200 members received this small token of our appreciation for their participation and is another example of our being "Lions First".



LITPC
"I Planted A Tree"
Special Pin

NOTE: All pin images have been reduced in size for space purposes.

Lion Jim Minnich, PDG Twentieth LITPC President 2011 - 2013

During this two year period, the LITPC started a vest program with an 8" LITPC logo on the back. In addition, each member received a 3" logo patch in an effort to help our members gain recognition at swaps and conventions and other Lionistic activities where it is appropriate to wear pin vests.

One of our Board Members, PCC Kent Clovis of Oklahoma, initiated the LITPC sign up of new members booth at the USA-Canada forum and introduced the very popular LITPC special pin in the shape of the host state where the forum is held. In addition, the pins were made available to our membership as a means of helping them to maintain their collection and interest in all pins that are issued by the organization. The two pins during Lion Jim's year are shown below:



Lion Babs Newman of Virginia Lions "stuff" donated by our members over \$1,000.00 was raised for the LITPC Scholarship Program, thanks primarily to Lion Babs efforts.

started the "Lions Pride" sale of various items. The "stuff" was sold at swaps and

The LITPC celebrated its 40th Anniversary at the Alternate Site Meeting in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. A Western theme was in vogue during the anniversary dinner, which was one of the highlights of the almost one week celebration.

Lion Bill Smith of Virginia edited and published a series catalog entitled "Salute to the Armed Forces". The catalog documented over 1,000 pins that were issued by many of our members and featured all of the armed services, including much of the equipment that is used by the services.



Under First Vice President Paul Viano of Massachusetts, and PCC Don and Meg Ager of New Hampshire, a "Lions Pride Initiative" Program was established. To participate in the program, the membership was given a list of 15 pin trading activities that were to be accomplished. On completing 9 of the activities a special pin was given and a silver one was given for completing 13. The pins are shown herein.



Lion Paul Viano created a Membership Program for bringing in new members. For sponsoring new members, a series of pins were made available to the LITPC membership as follows:



Lion Jim invited One Member and was presented the exclusive LITPC 3" medallion shown below in reduced size.

10 Members Gold

20 Members Silver

30 Members Copper

40 Members Pewter

Schiebel over 50 very ex-



Lion Jim Minnich, PDG Twentieth LITPC President 2011 - 2013

At Lion Jim Minnich's final LITPC Breakfast, he thanked the LITPC membership and the members of the LITPC Board of Directors for their contributions to a successful two years. In recognition of their exemplary service, each member of the Board was presented with one of the exclusive LITPC medallions shown below. Since Lion Jim Schiebel was previously presented with one, as explained on the preceding page, he is the only LITPC member to have received two of the medallions.



Other LITPC pins and his personal Jim's administration are shown below:

pins which were produced during Lion



2012



2012
Jim's Board of Directors
Pin



2013
Jim's Board of Directors
Pin



2013



2012
LITPC Annual Pin



2012
LITPC Member Pin



2013
LITPC Annual Pin



2013
LITPC Member Pin

Paul Viano, Jr., PCC
Walpole, Massachusetts
Twenty First LITPC President 2013-2015



At the Alternate Site Meeting in Oconomowoc, WI on June 15, 2013 PCC Paul Viano Jr. of Massachusetts was elected the 21st President of the LITPC. His goals during his term were to continue to enhance the image of the LITPC in the eyes of our members and the Lions of the world and to strengthen LITPC membership.

At the 2013 International Convention in Hamburg a membership initiative took place on the convention floor under the capable Chairmanship of PDG Lance Leak (AUS). This represented the first time that a membership table was manned outside of a convention held in North America, complete with a new 4' x 1' LITPC membership banner, and resulted in 78 new members.

During the 2013-2014 year several highlights occurred. Our LITPC Youth Scholarship's Charitable Foundation received tax exempt status from the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization retroactive to 5-22-13. Lion Verle Malik (VA) turned over his significant pin data from his successful website to the LITPC that greatly enhanced the Pin Catalogue sections of our website.

As an initiative to further enhance membership and attempt to show new members the fun of trading pins, a set of six Maple Leaf pins was produced in six colors to be given to new members who joined the LITPC at the Toronto Convention. This was spearheaded under the leadership of LITPC First VP PDG Bob Libin (NY). Each new member received a bag of ten maple leaf pins and was encouraged to trade them with our pin traders. Although very successful a few unanticipated issues occurred most notably, that many of the new members wanted to collect all six colors. A total of 163 new members signed up at the Convention. During this two year term 306 new members joined the LITPC.

Another first took place at our Annual Meeting in Toronto when many candidates for International Director and both candidates for International Second VP visited our breakfast and briefly spoke on behalf of their candidacies.

Highlights from the following year included an upgrading of the Maple Leaf initiative for the Honolulu International Convention. A set of five Surfboard pins in five colors was approved with the caveat that one color would be sold to LITPC members to encourage new members to trade to complete a set. As a postscript a total of 138 new members joined at the Convention.

In late February of 2015, the LITPC received a letter from the IRS informing us that we were to be audited regarding our 501(c)(4) tax exempt status. At the March Board Meeting President Paul was approved to stand the audit on behalf of the LITPC. As a postscript after more than one year of dealing with the IRS we were informed on June 3, 2016, that the LITPC was exempt from federal income tax under the International Revenue Code Section 501(c)(7) – (Social and Recreation Clubs). Several LITPC members played a large roll in this project, most notably Lion Stephen Staudinger (WA).

Lastly, the Board approved the Youth Scholarship Contributing Member Program modeled after LCIF's Contributing Member Program, whereby an LITPC member can become a Contributing Member with an annual donation of US\$25. Funds from this program were approved to be used to award a second youth scholarship in any year when US\$2,500.00 is raised.

During 2013-2015 period of time our LITPC Youth Scholarship Program remained very successful. Total receipts were \$41,948 and 20 new William A. Smith Fellows were added bringing the total number of Fellows to 67 with 8 Progressives.



Paul Viano
President

3-39



Paul Viano
President

Lion Paul Viano, PCC
Twenty First LITPC President 2013 - 2015



2014
6 Different Colored Pins Issued to Attract New Members During LCI Convention



2015
5 Different Colored Pins Issued to Attract New Members During LCI Convention



LITPC Contributing Member Youth Scholarship Program



2015
LITPC Hospitality Room Sponsored by Australian Pin Traders



2013



2014

USA/Canada Leadership Forum



Presidents Award

NEW MEMBER SPONSOR PINS



White Border
2 Members



Red Border
5 Members



Blue Border
10 Members



Yellow Border
15 Members



Green Border
20 Members



Violet Border
30 Members



Orange Border
40 Members



Gold Border
50 Members