

I just witnessed what it is to be an American

I saw and experienced what it is to be an LION

To the men and woman of the multiple Lions Clubs that served the last eight days in record breaking heat. I want to thank you for letting me experience what it is to be a LION and a true American. To realize how deep in my heart they reached watching as they struggled in their duties against the heat and physical fatigue. They gave of themselves almost to the point of becoming very sick to life threatening from heat exhaustion, for one spending days in the hospital recovering. Yes, they served in one of the most relentless weeks of heat this state and this county have ever experienced. They served this community without even questioning why. Who did they serve you may ask. It is the people in the community that are in need of help that go without notice. They serve the people that are hardly getting by in their lives for such reasons as poor sight, illness or an unexpected economic down turn, to many other unknown reasons for needing their help. Their selfless efforts help the children, teens, adults and elderly in their plight to achieve a happy life. All the while never once asking what is in it for me. No one tells them or made a law to make them serve. It is because they know it must be done people are in need so they get up and do it. For me that says America and what has made it the greatest country on earth.

As I watched those eight days every ounce of energy, every penny earned by my fellow LIONS was driven by the thought of assisting someone in the community. They did not give of their own fortune because they themselves have not. They gave the most valuable God given item that everyone cherishes the most in life, time. They gave their time and hearts to the community. When asked of them for whom they were struggling for, the answer was for whoever is in need. If there was ever a time to see or experience why this country is the greatest it is when you get the chance to see these individual citizens, the LIONS of our great community, state and country come to gather and work against an evil that is among all of us. That evil is POVERTY.

I say to any individual that has a complaint as to being put out in their personal comfort during those eight dog days of summer. During those eight days of great

heroism by the most unlikely of citizens, I challenge you to come forth and just stand next to them at their post doing there service. Don't try to do what they do but try to just hang with them and understand what drives them. I guarantee that you will be as proud to be American LION as I.

(I want to thank my wife for diligently working to make this project flow so smoothly. Lion Greg for taking that vacation to ALASKA and giving me the opportunity to serve as set up chair. But most of all I want to thank you all from the deepest part of my heart for what you do and allowing me to be your fellow LION.)

Lion Mike Swederska