



The Lions Lines

Together We Serve

DISTRICT 25 G

WEBSITE: www.lions25g.org

With many THANKS to New Paris Lion Dave Smoker

March 2010

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Knights for the Blind and Deaf

Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of imagination. John Dewey quoted in "Thoughts on Wisdom".

How many times have you heard someone offer an idea only to hear someone else say, "It will never work" even though it has never been tried or supposedly was tried years ago and didn't work. Unless a club is willing to try something it will never work because doing nothing insures that outcome. Imagination and imaginative ideas are what makes the world go round.

There is a story about a man who went broke at the age of 70. He could have simply given up and relied on charity. Instead, he started a small restaurant with an old family recipe and now the result is Kentucky Fried Chicken. If you find your club in that situation and know there is a major need in your community, then work to rebuild an even larger club. Giving up should not be an option so work to rebuild.

I already hear the complaints that we have gotten too old or too many people are too busy and a myriad of other excuses. If we don't try we will never succeed. We Lions need always to remember where we started and how we got to where we are now. And when success improves your club, always remember that standing still is not an option. There are so many clubs which once were very large and active in their communities only to be reduced in size to a group of "old timers" who don't have enough members to "get involved".

Every charitable organization is having difficulty growing, but giving up is not an option if you value your community. When Lions Clubs go away, who will fill the void? Who will help the blind or handicapped – or who will help the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts? Who will make sure cancer victims receive care or the deaf to hear? Lions provide so much help in so many ways that allowing a club to die hurts so many people that the community suffers major trauma. Remember, WE SERVE.

Would a new Lion be welcome in your club? Then what are you waiting for – someone else to get that new member for your club? I have been waiting for a call to help you get that new member. All state projects and activities chairs can also help! Just a phone call away – one phone call – is that too much to

ask? Liberty Day booklets given to 8th and 11th grade students could get you new members now and well into the future.

Please call and let all of us help your club grow! Call me now to order your books for Liberty Day. Don't know what Liberty Day is all about? Then it is time you found out!! Call PDG Pat Birk – 574-842-3690.

We are a team – remember to let the whole team play. Any project trustee or activity chair would be glad to help you add the much needed new members to your club!

Get on the move to grow! Oh, you are not the president, membership or program chair – then ask one of your officers to call.

Have you been watching the Olympic Games this season? I have- I really enjoy the opportunity to see sports that I don't see any other time. How those snowboarders and ski jumpers and aerialists do what they do is amazing to me. I guess you try something once and if you aren't killed you try it again! Somehow, they learn to do these impossible tricks and then compete with other similarly crazy folks who can also do them.

What would an international Lion Olympics look like? We would have to somehow find ways to “compete” against other Lions Clubs to see who could do the most “risk-taking” in serving their communities. Maybe we would learn to accomplish the impossible... a community where every child with vision problems had glasses or treatment or a town where everyone fighting cancer had our assistance. Maybe we would compete in finding new and creative ways to feed neighbors in need.

Whatever it would look like- wouldn't it be great if YOU led YOUR CLUB to the top of that podium for a Lion Gold Medal?

Peace-

Pastor Larry Dimick

Lion Chaplain for District 25-G

**From the Desk of
Cabinet Secretary Treasurer
PDG Ann Haffner**

Club Presidents and Secretaries, please share this with your Board of Directors.

Nominations and Elections: March is the month when your club's Nominating Committee should be meeting to propose a slate of officers for the 2010-2011 Lions year. Elections should be held by April 15 and your **PU 101 Officer Reporting Form** completed and sent to Lions Clubs International, DG Bill and VDG Paul by May 1 so that 2010-2011 directories are correct and complete. All information for your president, secretary, treasurer, and membership chairperson should be reported.

Please make sure names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses are correct and are typed or printed (all in capital letters) so they can be easily read. The easiest way to do this is to file the report online on the WMMR LCI website. Once you have done that, view it and save it to your computer and e-mail it as an attachment to DG Bill. Send it to VDG Paul as well so that he will have a head start on his directory before DG Bill turns them all over to him. Even if you do not use e-mail, it is very important that e-mail addresses for your other officers are included and correct. Most communication is now done by e-mail and your officers will not receive that communication if their e-mail addresses are not known or are incorrect. If you are filing your

PU 101 online you will need officers' birth years in order to update their information for a correct and complete report. It is very important that each officer's information is updated before you file the report online.

Convention Voting: At our district convention on March 6 each club in good standing with Lions Clubs International and District 25-G shall be entitled to 1 delegate and 1 alternate for each 10 members, or major fraction thereof, who have been members of your club since February 1, 2009. In addition, each PDG who is a member in good standing of a club in 25-G has one vote independent of his/her club's delegate quota. If you have a question about the number of delegates your club has, please contact me. If you will have more present at the convention than the number of delegates you are entitled to, please send me the names of those who will serve as delegates and alternates. Otherwise, I will certify the first ones to arrive.

Club Secretaries: Please remember the deadlines for the submission of Monthly Membership Reports. For example, mailed March MMR's must be received at LCI by March 20th. Online March MMR's must be filed by March 31st.

E-Mail Addresses: Many of you have changed your e-mail addresses since the beginning of this Lions year. Whenever I send out cabinet meeting minutes or an important notice several of you do not receive it because it will not go through. If you have a new e-mail address or I do not have your e-mail address, please send it to me at ahaffner@kconline.com

Please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail or at (574) 457-3054 with any questions or concerns you or your club officers have and I'll do my best to help in any way I can. Thank you for your cooperation this year and best wishes to each of you and your clubs as you successfully complete these last 4 months of the 2009-2010 Lions year.

Please get your convention reservations & checks to me by the March 1st _ deadline. All reservations must be paid in advance by that date. I look forward to seeing each of you on March 6th in Plymouth.

Writing News Releases

Simple helps for getting your Lions news in print

Remember: all news releases should be timely . . . newspapers will not print a release that is three or four weeks old.

Before you do anything call the local newspaper and find out when your copy needs to be in the office and to whom you should direct it. Also check to see how the editor would prefer the copy to be sent. Some newspapers accept faxes; some double spaces, typed copy; and some want as much as possible to arrive via e-mail. If you type the copy for either mailing or faxing remember to use an 8 1/2 by 11 sheet of paper and only type on one side.

Likewise, if you plan to send a photo find out what is acceptable. It will save you a lot of time and maybe heartache later.

Start the release by putting a contact person's name at the top . . .

Example:

Contact: Lion Jane Doe at (303) 777-6101 or cell (303) 778-6111
Or My Lions Club President at (303) 777-2301

Then include the important information and keep the release short. As news space tightens in newspapers editors tend to select articles that are both interesting and to the point.

Reread the article to make sure it is error free . . . have someone else double check it. That second set of eyes is important.

Don't forget what you learned in elementary grammar class and the 5 W's.

The lead of your article should include Who? What? When? Where? And occasionally, How?

Who — Who sponsored the event? Who will speak? Give complete names, spelled correctly. Initials may be misleading.

What — What will take place? What took place?

When — Be exact, Not, Saturday but Saturday, Jan. 6, at 8:30 a.m. Not last month, but December. Not next year, but 2008.

Where — The exact location. Not the regular meeting place, but the first floor of the Hilton Hotel, 100 Main Street, Indianapolis.

Why — Why is the event taking place? Why it is important?

Include a little history in your article . . . For example: If your club held a pancake and sausage breakfast the article might end with the fact that all of the money collected will be used for conducting KidSight screenings in the community in keeping with the fact that in 1925, Helen Keller addressed the Lions International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, and challenged those in attendance to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." From that time, Lions clubs (including My Lions Club, which was chartered in 1941) have been actively involved in service to the blind and visually impaired.

Quotes are also helpful in an article . . . President Mark Smith noted the fact that 1,200 community residents attended the event. Or, "The event was attended by 1,200 area residents," states President Mark Smith. The first tells what the president said without being a direct quote. The second is a direct quote.

Don't be afraid to use the articles available from Lions Clubs International. Many are ready to fill in the blanks and use.

SPECIAL NOTE

North Webster Lionsess President Jennifer Simmons has a new email address: mljsimmons@mediacombb.net

Leo Jon Gatke, District Leo President sent me a letter noting that 4 bids have been received, reviewed and approved by their consultants. Time is estimated to be 8 weeks from start. The Leos are to be complimented for their fund raising efforts to provide a burn waiting room and overnight room for parents for badly burned children at the Fort Wayne burn center.

Plymouth Lions President Vivian Blankenship has a new address: 709 S 24Th St.; South Bend, IN 46615-2113

INDIANA LIONS STATE CONVENTION Century Center South Bend, Indiana April 22-25

There will be a Silent Auction at the Indiana Lions State Convention again this year. We ask Lions from each district to bring items worth \$20 or more for the auction. Our Convention Committee approved donating the funds raised to the LCI Haitian Relief Fund.

You might consider bringing a basket of items from your home town. Other items popular at previous events have been hand-made things such as afghans, wood crafts and art work. Boxes of automotive oil, tools, wine, baked and home canned goods, books and antiques as well as many different kinds of gift certificates may draw bidders to the area in the Exhibit Hall.

Your donations may be turned in to a representative from the State Convention Committee at your own District Convention. The Silent Auction Committee will be prepared to receive your items in the Exhibit Hall at the Century Center Thursday between 12:00 & 5:00, Friday between 8:00 & 5:00, and Saturday before 9:00 a.m.

Our Lions Clubs exist for one purpose: community service. We serve our communities in many ways, but in many communities, the local Lions Club and the service it provides are the best kept secret in town. As we serve those who need our help, we need to make sure that our neighbors know who we are and what we are doing to make a difference in our local community, across the state, and around the globe. We need support – and new members – from our local communities, in order to continue our long tradition of service, but we are not going to get that support or those new members, if people do not know that our Lions Club exists, or if they think that we're just another card club or bowling team.

I thought my club was doing a good job of publicizing our service projects, until I went in to the local Subway shop wearing a Lions shirt. The young man behind the counter looked at the logo on my shirt and asked "What do Lions do?" Well, I told him about our club's Christmas projects, and the vision screenings we do at the local pre-school, and the dictionaries we give to third-graders, and the scholarships we give to high school seniors, and the playground equipment we helped purchase and install in the town park. I told him about Lions helping with disaster relief after floods in southern Indiana and tornados in northern Indiana. I told him about eyeglass recycling and state projects and how Lions have saved or restored the sight of more than 30 million people world-wide in the last 20 years. I told him so much that my toasted sandwich got cold. And when I finally stopped to catch my breath, he said "Gee, I didn't know Lions did all that stuff."

Our Lions Clubs have a long tradition of service. If we want that tradition to continue far into the future, it is not enough to work to meet the needs of today; we must also build to meet the needs of tomorrow. We

joined Lions because someone offered us the opportunity to make a difference in our community. Offer someone else that same opportunity.

Lion Rose and I look forward to seeing you at the District Convention.

Fired Up for Lionism!

1st VDG Paul Russell

One night while heading home from a Lions Club meeting I decided to stop for an ice cream cone at a local McDonalds. The young man who waited on me noticed my Lions jacket and told me he would not have gotten a job at the store had the local Lions not bought him eyeglasses. That admission choked me up because it means that we helped an individual grow and get a means of livelihood recipients of our help. WE SERVE

Club Presidents, I have scanned in and am forwarding to you the address for perfect attendance awards for Lions in your club; please provide recognition to your lions club members.

In this 40 days of Lent, we should all remember our obligation to help and to provide assistance for those less fortunate. There are so many people unemployed in every community who are approaching desperation in trying to keep their families together. As Lions, we need to redouble our efforts to help them and our community. As children grow, clothes and coats are needed. Clothing drives for those people help as do food drives or help with transportation to job fairs for people willing to work. Remember, what you do for the least of your brothers you also do for me.

Advertise in the District 25-G Directory

Promote your club's fundraisers or celebrate your club's accomplishments – advertise in the 2010-2011 district directory. Each club receives at least two copies of the directory, and directory ads defray printing costs.

Advertising rates: \$25 for a ¼-page ad, \$50 for a ½-page ad, and \$100 for a full-page ad.

Send the text and artwork for your ad, with a check payable to **District 25-G Lions**, to:

VDG Paul Russell • P.O. Box 31 • Lakeville, IN 46536

Or ... send the text and artwork by email to pdrussell@gmail.com, and send the check to the address above.

Ad copy and checks must be received by May 15, 2010.
