

Letter to club officers from Jimmy M. Ross

Growing up on a ranch in West Texas, I eagerly looked forward to this Time of year. April is when our state flower, the bluebonnet, blooms in great abundance. It is a source of joy for any Texan and a treat for any visitor who has seen it.

My youth and my experience as a rancher has brought me close to nature. A rancher knows the effect that water and drought has on pastureland. Ranchers must know the optimum season for breeding and calving. And Every rancher knows that overgrazing is a short-term expediency that will eventually put a rancher out of business. Making a ranch successful requires a healthy respect for the environment and diligent management for 12 months out of the year. There is no season in which a rancher gets to just sit back and watch things grow.

Like a successful rancher, I ask that you continue your hard work this Month and up to the last day of your term in office. The Lions year is three-quarters gone, but there remains much work to be done. The paradigm shift that I have advocated has sprouted green and healthy but has not yet put down solid roots.

Among the healthiest sprouts, I am proud to say, has been our family membership initiative. In just two months, 5.1 percent of all Lions Club members have become registered as part of a family unit. A part of this increase is due to a net gain of more than 2,000 women members in the month of February, part of a very positive trend that has taken place over the last decade. Please continue to emphasize the benefits of family memberships and to target specific groups, including women, as potential members of your club.

This year, we have reached out to Leo Club members by inviting them to The International Convention in Chicago and providing programs that will be especially meaningful to them. Please remember to include Leo Clubs in your area in as many activities as possible and consider forming new Leo Clubs under your sponsorship.

[http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/leo\\_conv\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/leo_conv_agenda.pdf)

Your participation is needed to help us gauge the effectiveness of the New ideas spreading throughout the entire association. Please tell us about the results of your Club Renewal efforts by going to

<http://www3.lionsclubs.org/ClubRenewal/ClubRenewalWelcome.aspx>

Also, please keep in mind that our goal as Lion leaders is to

Effectively serve our "customers" - that is our individual club members. One of the most important benefits that younger people see in joining an organization is the opportunity to create personal networks. Our traditions hold that Lions should not profit or receive personal benefit from club activities and we remain true to that principle. However, we need not go so far as to prohibit forming the bonds, including business and professional relations, that link one member to another and which help hold the fabric of our communities together. Networking of this kind is to be encouraged!

Effectively serving our customers also means planning and executing activities that are the most meaningful to our members. Projects related to the environment and ecology are particularly interesting to many active people and resonate strongly during this season of growth and rebirth. Keep in mind that environmental service projects are high on the list of priorities the international board of directors has as major service activities. They might include recycling efforts, pollution control projects and tree-planting. Visit [http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/programs\\_cult\\_environ.shtml](http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/programs_cult_environ.shtml) for more ideas.

People involved in their communities are typically also concerned with Local politics and in many places this is election season for area officials. While remaining strictly neutral and not endorsing any candidate, you can enhance your club's prestige and visibility in the community by inviting candidates of all parties to take part in a public forum.

Thank you for all you do and I look forward to serving with you during This home stretch of our leadership year.

Sincerely,

Jimmy M. Ross  
International President

Notes:

Club Officer Reporting Forms are due.  
Each Lions club is requested to submit PU-101 Form to headquarters by May 15, 2007 in order to report the 2007-2008 club officers.

Any club which has access to online filing of various forms and reports will not receive a printed-paper copy of PU-101 Form. Please file online, or download a blank form for mailing.

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/pu101.pdf>

#### New Online Convention Registration

LCI has recently upgraded its online Convention Registration system. The new user friendly system enables Lions to register for the International Convention, reserve a hotel room for the convention, purchase tickets and make payment online. When the form is submitted online, the Lion receives a confirmation instantly. By using the online registration system, Lions avoid the 4 - 6 weeks of registration processing time for registrations submitted by fax or mail. The online convention registration is now available at

[http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/news\\_conv\\_register.shtml](http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/news_conv_register.shtml)

Lion Power: CSFII Club Newsletter Vol. 2, Issue 8

[http://www.lions-csfii.org/live/content/pdfs/club\\_news\\_v2\\_i8\\_en.pdf](http://www.lions-csfii.org/live/content/pdfs/club_news_v2_i8_en.pdf)

#### Clubs Countdown to 2007 International Convention

Less than three months remain in Lions year 2006-2007 fund raising for CSFII. Your club's efforts today will determine how many people are Saved from blindness through Lions SightFirst program.

This APRIL:

- . Send all funds raised "for CSFII" to LCIF as soon as possible
- . Become a Model Club before the 2007 International Convention -three Months away!
- . Giving is an act of service. Honor club members with a CSFII Melvin Jones Fellowship
- . Share your club's CSFII efforts - send photos and club fund-raising Ideas to the CSFII office

#### Model Club Rally!

More than 1,700 Model Clubs are leading by example. Their members have volunteered to make personal gifts and raise funds. Below is a summary of

Model Club participation. Is your club a potential Model Club? For a Model

Club commitment form, click here to download the form.

#### CSFII By the Numbers:

- . US\$77.5 million raised, more than half CSFII's minimum goal of US\$150 million
- . 1,759 Model Clubs and growing
- . Less than three months remaining in CSFII 2006-2007 fund raising!

#### LINKS:

[http://www.lions-csfii.org/live/content/pdfs/club\\_news\\_v2\\_i8\\_en.pdf](http://www.lions-csfii.org/live/content/pdfs/club_news_v2_i8_en.pdf)

[http://www.lions-csfii.org/live/content/pdfs/model\\_club\\_form\\_r.pdf](http://www.lions-csfii.org/live/content/pdfs/model_club_form_r.pdf)

Protect your club's active status by paying all bills in a timely manner. Effective July 1, 2007, clubs with past due balances beyond 150 days, equal to as little as one per-capita, could cause the club to be placed on automatic suspension and automatic cancellation within 90 days.

Currently, some clubs could be in jeopardy of becoming inactive if past-due balances are left unpaid as follows:

- . Balances unpaid beyond US\$1000 and over 90 days, could be placed on status quo, unless payments are received between now and June 30, 2007

- . Second semester 2006 per-capita must be paid prior to May 31, 2007.

If you have any questions about your clubs payment status please Contact Lions Clubs International at [districtadministration@lionsclubs.org](mailto:districtadministration@lionsclubs.org) or [treasurer@lionsclubs.org](mailto:treasurer@lionsclubs.org).