



“LOVING INDIVIDUALS OFFERING NEEDED SERVICES”



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DG COLUMN

Isn't it great to be a Lion? As surely as May brings out the lawn mowers and mushrooms in Indiana, I can't imagine anything better than being a Lion in May. The weather has turned warm and Lions are hard at work on Club projects all over our District. We have even hit some major milestones as Lions this year. For example:

- We are now in our 41st year of serving the needs of youth with our own youth camp that was designed especially for handicapped children: Camp Woodsmoke (the best!). This camp is provided free of charge to hundreds of handicapped children each year by the Lions of District 25-F.
- We, the Lions of District 25-F have provided free vision screening to over 8,000 people through our Vision Van Program.
- We just helped to make the final payment on our pledge of 1 Million Dollars by the Lions of Indiana (Multiple District 25), which made the purchase of the Gamma Knife possible as part of our Cancer Control Project.
- We just completed another great State Convention (in Lafayette), where our own PID Carter Everage was recognized as the Indiana Distinguished Lion of the Year by the Indiana Lions Foundation by a unanimous decision!
- We donated more than \$12,000 from this District (and just over \$70,000 total from the State) toward the LCIF Tsunami Relief effort in Sri-Lanka, where you are saving lives with your assistance.
- We purchased a trailer to assist in the recycling of eyeglasses and hearing aids from all around our District.
- We have distributed hearing aid and eyeglass recycling boxes to nearly every Lions Club in this District.
- Our Vision Van is scheduled to be back on the road later this month, following a short downtime in which we did some much needed upgrading of the bus to better serve the public.
- We received approval of our grant request by LCIF for some matching funds to help pay for the improvements to our Vision Van, and also to order some much needed additional vision screening equipment in order to more effectively conduct our free vision screenings to the public in conjunction with that program.
- DGE Earl is even gearing up for another exciting year of Lions, which he will kick off in Hong Kong toward the end of next month. (He said that he is already packing and ready to go! Now, who wants to give him his shots?)

This brings me to one of the most important messages that I can share with any of you as a Lion Leader. You may not realize it, but in Lions we have an essentially upside down organizational structure. The Lions members should always be at the top; and, everyone else (Club Officers, District Officers, and International Officers) should always report to them. This is a little different from what most of us are accustomed to. In fact, the further "up" you go as a Lion, the more people you actually report to. In corporate America, a promotion "up through the ranks of management" will result in progressively larger numbers of people in the organization that report to you. However, in Lions, the exact opposite is true. As a Lion Leader moves "up", they actually report to more and more Lions. As your District Governor, I actually report to each of our Club Presidents, who in turn report to the members of their respective Clubs. As your District Governor, I consider myself accountable to each of you, not you to me. A District Governor serves the Clubs and each of the Lions members in their District, not the other way around. "We Serve" is more than just the motto of Lions, it is also the job description of every Lion Leader in respect to where we fit into the overall scheme of things, with regard to each of our Lions members.

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A volunteer organization works very differently from that of a corporation or the military. We cannot “command our troops from above” the way that a military commander can in order to accomplish our goals. As volunteers, we don’t “get paid to follow orders.” In fact, we each “pay to participate” in our organization. Therefore, the only way that we can accomplish anything as an organization is when we are all working toward a common goal. Face it; no one can “make” a volunteer do anything that they don’t actually want to do in the first place. We are all here because we want to be, not because we have to be. As Lions leaders, we must always be mindful of three very important underlying facts regarding Lions:

1. This is a volunteer organization.
2. Our purpose for being is community service.
3. We should always strive to have fun in achieving our goals.

As Lions leaders, we must always keep these three basic issues in mind.

- We are not officers or CEOs in a corporation, with the power to “fire” our employees, nor are we in the military with the power to court martial a soldier for disobedience. We are all volunteers with the ability to participate in, (or walk away from), a goal or a project (or even a Club) at any time. Likewise, we are all equal in importance. If we don’t all share the same goal, it is going to get very lonely for the Lion Leader who is working that project. It doesn’t matter if we are talking about a Club Project, a District Project, or an International Program. If the goal isn’t properly shared and adopted by all of those around us, it will not happen.
- If our projects don’t support an underlying goal of community service, they will not be shared, nor should they. After all, community service is the reason that most of us joined this organization. It truly is our purpose for being.
- If we don’t have fun in achieving our goals, we won’t share those goals for very long. When the goals are no longer shared, the Lions members will cease supporting them. Besides, we’re all volunteers, and if we aren’t having fun as Lions, we will soon find someplace else to go where we can have fun, while doing something else.

Historically, if a Lion Leader has lost sight of any of these three basic issues, they did not succeed as a leader for very long. However, if a Club President or a project chair does keep these three basic issues in mind, they will almost always be successful. My challenge for each of the incoming Club Presidents (and other Club officers) and to all project chairs is to keep these three very important issues in mind as you begin this next year. If you will remember what I’ve told you here, I firmly believe that you will all have a great year!

As my term of office is nearing its expiration, I find that I have so much that I want to share with each of you that it becomes nearly impossible to edit my thoughts down to a manageable and cohesive message to you each month. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity that you have given to me. This year has allowed me to grow more as a Lion, and as a leader, than all of my previous time as a Lion

put together had done. But, I’m not finished, yet. We still have another two months to go in this Lions Year!

I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend the State Convention this year. I know that DGE Earl and Lion Judy certainly appreciated your participation as well. Even though we were not completely successful in our efforts to make the Indiana School for the Blind a State Project, it was a valiant effort. It did achieve a very strong majority vote, but, it fell short of the necessary two-thirds majority that was required to ratify it as an amendment to our State Constitution. I’m sure that many of you may be thinking: “Well, if most of us wanted it, we should just do it anyway.” However, that is not how you run an organization. We must adhere to our Constitution and By Laws. The constitution of any organization (be it a Club, a District, a State, or even a country) is supposed to be somewhat difficult to change. That is the reason that most constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority rather than a simple majority. I’m sure that we will see this particular amendment succeed at some point in the future, just not this year.

The only other amendment to fall short this year at our State Convention was the one regarding “same day registration and voting”. As it was written, I believe that it went much too far in essentially allowing someone to show up for less than an hour in which they could have registered and voted on an issue, or an office, without truly attending the Convention. I suspect that a more appropriate look at this issue may be revisited sometime in the future. However, I sincerely hope that the basic concept of attending our Convention for some reasonable length of time, before being allowed to vote, will be a major component of any new amendment of that nature. It should also have some sort of a “sunset clause,” that would allow it to be tried for a short period of time before requiring it to be revisited by the Lions of Indiana to consider its success or failure during that trial period. The change could then be considered for permanent status within our State Constitution, based on its actual level of success. As was pointed out in our District Caucus during the Convention, this amendment was a two-edged attempt to address a very important issue. The positive side of the issue would have been the potentially broader participation in our State Conventions by more Lions. The negative side of the issue could have been a potential reduction in the participation levels of our Lions on Friday and Sunday of the Convention.

The underlying need for more participation in the government of our affairs by a broader base of Lions still exists. However, we, as Lions, will need to come up with a more creative way to solve this particular issue. By the same token, I would like to see more participation by the Lions of this District at each of our District Cabinet Meetings and at our District Convention each year.

We currently have over 2,200 Lions in this District, yet, it seems that only a very small fraction of those members ever attend our District and State functions. We are often represented by barely more than ½ of 1% of our total membership! Many Clubs frequently have no representation at all at these events. Why? What can we, as Lions Leaders, do to improve your participation levels?

One of my goals this year has been to improve the “fun factor” at each of our activities and meetings. I hope that I have succeeded, at least at some level (even if only a small one) toward that goal. You have all helped to make my year fun, and I certainly wanted to reciprocate that feeling of fun and service with each of you. I also hope that we have had structured and informative meetings at the District level. One of my goals for those meetings was to start on time, and end on time. On some occasions we got there in a rather unconventional manner, but, for the most part we did accomplish that particular goal. We even managed to sneak in a little interesting information about Lions and our organization along the way. I also hope that the little history quizzes that I gave at most of my Official Visitations were both fun and informative. But, most of all, I hope that you have learned at least a little bit about what you are already making possible outside of your own communities, this year, as Lions and have had a little fun in the process.

After all, what good does it do for any of us to invite our friends to become Lions if they don't have fun when they come to a meeting or participate in an activity? Why would they want to join an organization that doesn't have any fun? Likewise, why would they want to join a community service organization that doesn't serve its community? I hope that this isn't true anywhere in our District. In fact, I would like to think that this doesn't happen anywhere in Lionism. Unfortunately, I do know that it is true in some places. But, those places are becoming fewer and fewer, because they are losing membership fast, and they are quickly dissolving as Lions Clubs. How would your club have to respond, if a visitor were to ask, “Why are you all here?” If your Club is not having fun, and not serving your community, consider yourself warned; you are on borrowed time!

I want all of our Lions Clubs to be fully involved in serving their communities, and I want everyone to have fun as a Lion. If we do that, none of us will have any membership concerns for very long. After all, if we're all having fun as Lions and accomplishing things that serve our own communities, why wouldn't we want to share that experience with a few of our friends?

I suspect that the last thing that any of us want to do is to invite our friends to join us in an organization that doesn't do anything worthwhile, or have any fun. After all, we certainly don't want them to go back home and say to their other friends, “Lions. I tried it once, but, I didn't like it.” (With apologies to ID Bud Wahl from our Mid-Winter Conference – if you don't get the joke, you should have been there. It was actually quite funny. Besides, he told it much better than I can.) Instead, we all want our friends to say, “Lions. I tried it once and I had so much fun that I haven't stopped, yet! Thanks so much for inviting me to join with you.”

Let May be our “invite a friend” month. (In some parts of the world they call May their “Membership Month”.) It is a prime opportunity to invite a friend to share your goals of community service and to have some fun in the process.

I would like to commend each of you on your efforts toward various community service projects this past year. And I would like to especially commend you for working together with one another. I have seen some wonderful results as Clubs have worked together with one another on Vision Screenings, at Camp Woodsmoke, and even for

local projects. You have all made me very proud to be a Lion this year. I realize that there may have been times when everything didn't go just like everyone would have liked for it to have gone, at some events. That is what happens when we don't all share the same goals and have the same plan for achieving them. It is sort of like trying to harness a draft horse to a Shetland pony and plow a field. You may get the job done, but, neither animal is going to be real happy about the way it happened (including the one in the back holding the reins and the “whip”). But, when we all work together toward a common goal, sharing information and resources, amazing things tend to get accomplished.

The old saying is still true:

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More!
TEAM!

Way to go, Lions of District 25-F! Thanks,

DG Carl.

DGE COLUMN

Hello Lions!!

Oh, this is a beautiful time of year when everything of nature comes forth to grow and show all it's beauty, same goes for us, as Lions. Now as all the harsh winter is behind us let us as Lions, spring forth and do as Mother Nature has. Lets show our full colors and go forth and recruit new Lions to our great and wonderful organization.

This is a time to grow with so many activities coming up. Lets ask our friends and those we come into contact to come and join us in the fun of fellowship with other Lions. Let's let the best secret out and spread the word.

Also, as a reminder from the "THE WHIP." We need those PU101's A.S.A.P!!!! It's really great to be able to have our New Directories done in time for the Cabinet Organizational Day at Camp Woodsmoke. It takes a lot of time to put it together, once you get all Clubs PU101's. So, please help by sending them out now if you have not already.

So, again, get those PU101's---PU101's---PU101's---PU101's---PU101's---Pu101's, in the mail. Your Postal Service needs the extra work!! Ha!! Ha!!

As, my quote says!!!

Do It Now, For Today Will Be Yesterday, Tomorrow!!

THANKS!!!

DGE Earl "THE WHIP" Whipple

Lions Club Members - May is Healthy Vision Month!

May is Healthy Vision Month and this year it's focused on low vision awareness and education. Once again, the Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP) and EyeCare America join forces to preserve sight. Thanks to our combined efforts last year, EyeCare America helped more than 3,000 people in the month of May.

In honor of Healthy Vision Month, please encourage anyone 65 and older to call EyeCare America's Seniors EyeCare Program helpline 1-800-222-EYES(3937) to see if they may be eligible for a comprehensive dilated eye exam and care for up to one year often at no out-of-pocket cost. This year-round program helpline operates 24 hours, every day.

Should you have questions or wish to receive a Lions/ECA poster or press release tailored to our partnership, please visit www.eyecareamerica.org. Click on "Partner Material" or call EyeCare America staff toll-free at 877-887-6327, 8-4 (PT). EyeCare America is the public service foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. The Senior's EyeCare Program is co-sponsored by the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, Inc and ALCON.

Please also visit the LEHP website at www.lehp.org to find out more about low vision and to learn what you can do to raise awareness of eye health. LEHP and EyeCare America, preserving sight together one caller at a time.

Thank you,
Stephen Yearson
Lions Eye Health Program

VISION VAN WORKERS NEEDED

We still need a few more workers at the track. The following is a list of days and numbers needed.
Saturday May 14, 2005 at 6:00 AM: We need 8 workers have 5 worker signed up. We still need 3 workers.
Sunday May 15, 2005 at 7:00 AM: We need 8 workers have 3 workers signed up. We still need 5 workers.
Saturday May 21, 2005 at 7:00 AM: We need 8 workers have 7 workers signed up. We still need 1 workers.
Sunday May 22, 2005 at 7:00 AM: We need 8 workers have 3 workers signed up. We still need 5 workers.
Friday May 27 2005 at 7:00 AM: We need 8 workers have 6 workers signed up. We still need 2 workers.
Sunday May 29, 2005 at 4:00 AM: We need 8 workers have 7 workers signed up. We still need 1 worker.
Please contact Lion Paul Shane, P. O. Box 1052, Columbus, Indiana 47202, Telephone No: (812) 314-0806, Cell No: (812) 350-2969, or e-mail: shanept@yahoo.com to sign up. Thank you.

FOUNDATION WORKERS NEEDED

The Indiana Lions Foundation still needs some workers at the track. The following is a list of the days and numbers needed.

1 on May 13th
7 on May 15th
3 on May 21st
13 on May 29th

Please contact PDG Peg Dawson at (317) 248-1554 or e-mail pegldawson@aol.com to sign up. Thank You.

CAMP WOODSMOKE PICNIC

Just a reminder to put June 26, 2005 is the Family Picnic at Camp Woodsmoke. Look for more details in next months newsletter.

**THE PROBABILITY OF SOMEONE
WATCHING
YOU IS DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO
THE
STUPIDITY OF YOUR ACTIONS**

THE SIX MOST IMPORTANT WORDS:

"I ADMIT I MADE A MISTAKE"

THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT WORDS:

"YOU DID A GOOD JOB"

THE FOUR MOST IMPORTANT WORDS:

"WHAT IS YOUR OPINION"

THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT WORDS:

"IF YOU PLEASE"

THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT WORDS:

"THANK YOU"

THE LEAST IMPORTANT WORD IS:

" I "

<u>DID:</u>	IS A WORD OF ACHIEVEMENT
<u>WON'T:</u>	IS A WORD OF RETREAT
<u>MIGHT:</u>	IS A WORD OF BEREAVEMENT
<u>CAN'T:</u>	IS WORD OF DEFEAT
<u>OUGHT:</u>	IS A WORD OF DUTY
<u>TRY:</u>	IS A WORD EACH HOUR
<u>WILL:</u>	IS A WORD OF BEAUTY
<u>CAN:</u>	IS A WORD OF POWER

A CHALLENGE

**DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN
BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN
IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN
IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN
TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN
FOR AS LONG AS YOU EVER CAN
REV. JOHN WESLEY**

**COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING
KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS
WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS
(HENRY FORD)**

**TEAMWORK
SNOWFLAKES ARE ONE OF NATURES
MOST FRAGILE THINGS, BUT JUST
LOOK AT WHAT THEY CAN DO
WHEN THEY STICK TOGETHER**