



Dr. Patti Hill

International 3rd Vice President
Lions Clubs International
2019-2020

March 28, 2020

Dear Lions

Firstly, I hope you are healthy and well. If you, your family or friends have been touched by Covid-19 you have my sympathies and prayers. We are living in a time of unprecedented global challenge, and here in Canada we are not exempt. As Lions, it is written into our DNA to want to help, to serve, and to make the world a better place. Even now, when we are quarantined, self-isolating, or engaged in social distancing, we want to serve.

Our local, provincial, and our federal governments have been working overtime to respond to Covid-19 crisis, to plan, and to deliver options to keep our society safe and moving forward. At the same time, Lions have been responding, planning and delivering service, as well.

Announcements: Lions Clubs International has responded to the Covid-19 crisis in a number of ways, including:

- Cancellation of the 2020 LCI Convention to have been held in Singapore. Our next convention will be in 2021 in Montreal.
 - Because of this, no new officers at the International Level will be elected. The present officers and board of directors will all continue to serve you in their same positions until voting happens in Montreal.
 - DGEs will be able to assume their roles as District Governors for 2020-2021 starting on July 1st, as their respective elections are held locally, in their Districts.
 - Council Chairpersons or Council Chairpersons-elect, and other MD officers will be able to be elected locally, by whatever voting process your MDs adopt.
- The HQ office in Oak Brook is closed in compliance with Illinois requirements under their state COVID Response, but many of the LCI staff are working from home and responding to emails.
- LCI & LCIF have created dedicated web pages to keep you informed about our Global response to Covid-19:
 - <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/coronavirus> for LCI
 - <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/lcif-response> for LCIF

Club Operations: We encourage all of our Lions Clubs to continue to function - just not in face-to-face gatherings. This is the time of year to hold Club Officer Elections and our Legal Division has offered advice on this:

- *Re Lions Clubs Elections:*
All Lions clubs are permitted to conduct meetings via alternative meeting format.

*Therefore, they can conduct elections via **phone, email, or any other method** that will permit the Lions club to move forward.*



Practically speaking, as each Lions club is an independent legal entity, it can conduct elections (or choose not to conduct elections) at the discretion of the club.

Provided the decision is supported by the membership and no complaint is filed, the actions of the club will be accepted in good faith.

Clubs - Please contact your DG or MD to learn more about how to hold your meetings and elections.

Communication: While most of us are at home, “flattening” or “planking the curve”, staying in touch is important. There are many ways to do this and you have proven yourselves very creative already. Through phone calls, emails, messaging, and social media, I have learned of many MD, District, and Club meetings and events that are happening online or via teleconference. Many clubs are staying engaged by:

- Phoning a fellow Lion to see how they are doing
- Hosting online social events (Trivia nights, Coffee meets, etc.)
- Helping a Lion who is not able to get groceries by being the shopper / delivery person.
- Having regular meetings, just not face-to-face.

I encourage every Club to stay connected. SELF-ISOLATION should not be SOCIAL ISOLATION.

Service: In communities where one or two people can still move about safely, our Lions have developed many ways to meet community Service Needs. While this is not the time to host a Fishing Derby, or group effort to sort eyeglasses, our communities have never been more in need of volunteers than we are at this time. Many clubs will even find that new potential Lions want to help as well. So, let’s get creative and serve!

- Poll your members and determine who can help and what you are willing to do.
- Post on Facebook or other community message boards to let the community know of any services that your club can offer. Most Provincial Government sites also have a page you can use to volunteer your services.
- Support with ideas as well as money - one club posted the instructions for PEACE POSTER online, and encouraged parents looking for home-school projects to use Peace Poster as an art lesson.
- Lions are buying an extra item at the store to give to the local food bank.
- Lions are phoning non-Lions to see how they are and to brighten their day.
- Lions are volunteering in essential businesses whose staff are ill. For example, one club is sanitizing shopping carts.

Please use the Lions of Canada / Lions Du Canada FaceBook page to share your club service ideas. We know that when this current pandemic is behind us, Lions will be needed more than ever in our communities. We are also needed NOW. Let’s show the world just how resourceful, effective, and relevant our Lion volunteers are.

Thank you for all the service you are providing during this time of need.

Yours in Friendship,

VP Dr. Patti Hill