

E-3 Report

2nd Vice District Governor

To Governor Joe Jackson:

I appreciate the vote of confidence you have in me by appointing me as 2nd VDG, and for my club for endorsing me. For the Cabinet Members who voted for the appointment, thank you as well. I will do my best to live up to your expectations.

For any who may not wish to have me back in the chairs, (assuming there was, since no one can please everyone,) while I will do everything I can to gain your confidence, the bottom line is that I was the only game in town. I told DG Joe I would do it if no one else stepped forward. No one did.

I'm very concerned that this is a trend we are facing, one that 1VDG Debbie and I will both have to address in our own fashions. We need Lions who are in the clubs to step up into district positions, be it cabinet committee chairs or zone chairs; and we need those people to take the next step forward and move into the VDG and eventually DG roles. We cannot sustain ourselves with recycling PDGs into these roles. I will be the third PDG in a row to become a Governor again. This is a real problem.

Believe it or not, being a cabinet member, even a DG, can be done with a family; can be done while still working full-time; can be done with a lower income; can be done, period, if there is a commitment to making it happen. A commitment to the program. How do we instill this into our members, then find those members to bring them to the forefront and engage them?

Two thoughts. First, we as cabinet members, all of us, need to spread the word that we are seeking those who are interested in a bigger picture of Lions and what it offers. Not necessarily moving up, because I don't see it that way at all – at the club level is where the heart and soul of Lionism is. But we need those who are willing to serve those who are serving others, and that's where the cabinet members fill the void. If you hear of someone, tell 1VDG Debbie. Tell me. Let us have a chance to chat with them.

Second, invite Lions who are potentially interested in learning more to attend a cabinet meeting. All Lions are welcome anyway. Obviously we would need their names for food counts and the meal costs are there, but it would give them a taste of what is beyond their own clubs and the services we actually offer as support when needed. Before a person joins Lions, he or she typically wants to attend a meeting or event first to see if the fit is right. There is little difference in deciding if a new position is right, either.

I look forward to serving OH5 in whatever capacity is needed.

2nd VDG Mike Kerek