



Louisiana Lions Newsletter

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June 2018

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View from the Chair

Another year has come to a close. We have had 5 AWESOME Sub-District Conferences, each offering something different. The training, service projects and fellowship were wonderful. We had our Annual State Convention in District 8S, where we were joined by ID Pat Vannett and her husband, Lion Kevin. Each shared their knowledge and experience with us. The Governors made a great choice when they chose ID Pat.

The Seminars were great. Lion Kevin Vannett speaking from personal experience on "Living with Diabetes". In another location, Lions teamed up to discuss leadership and took home valuable information to bring back and use in their clubs. The Leadership Seminar was lead by PCC Michael Kennedy, GLT-MD8. If you missed it or if you want the rest of your club to be a part of something like this, PCC Kennedy can be reached at sportsman64@gmail.com.

As I finalize the newsletter, our District Governors Elect are in Las Vegas preparing for training seminars. Later in the week, Lions members from our Multiple and around the world will invade Las Vegas and partake in a wonderful International Convention which will host shows, a parade, seminars and fellowship with friends from near and far. A wonderful time it is. Look for pictures on social media or log into LCI and look for clips from the parade.

I wish for the incoming Council to have a wonderful and successful year. And to each of you and especially new Club Officers, I wish the same. Make it a great experience!

Michele Waskom
Council Chair

News from Leader Dog:

Dear MD8 Lions,

I bring greetings from Leader Dog, Lions Liaison Beth Slade. Mrs. Slade told me that two districts in MD8 have made enough donations thus far in the Lions Year to qualify for free visitations to the Leader Dog Campus in Rochester, Michigan. Districts 8N and 8S had donated over \$4,000 each in April of 2018. Leader Dog will pay for the flight and hotel room along with meals including the famous chili and donuts they serve upon arrival at the facility. These are both cooked by the dietary staff at Leader Dog and are very good. The 1st VDGEs and the MD8 Coordinator have been invited to visit the Leader Dog Campus on August 11th. Can we promote donations to Leader Dog from District 8 L, I and O? That way MD 8 can be fully represented at Leader Dog in the 2019-20 Lions Year. Please remember to promote Leader Dogs to legally blind people in Louisiana. It is by word of mouth from Lions that people will learn about the Leader Dogs. Training, 25 nights at the school, transportation to the school and back home along with the best trained dog guide are all offered to a legally blind person who can walk independently with a cane at no charge. A dog guide along with a hand held, voice activated GPS unit are both given along with training instructions to a legally blind person accepted in the program. Please visit www.leaderdog.org for more information about this program. Together we can make a difference by serving others.

Yours in Friendship and Service,
MD 8 Leader Dog Coordinator Lion Scott Dudley PDG





*"You can't get very
far until you start
doing something
for somebody
else."
Melvin Jones*

Save the Date

OCTOBER 12-14, 2018

REGIONAL LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

"RLLI was a great experience with hands on opportunities to learn about Lionism and life skills in general. It equipped me with the knowledge I needed to lead in Lions Clubs and I would recommend it to anyone."

DGE Tony Simpson
Shreveport Red River Lions Club

*"If you want to learn
-Team building,
-How to be a more effective leader
-Self Awareness*

*Then RLLI is for you. An added bonus is you make new
Lion friends and share Lion Projects"*

Jackie Auerbach
Alexandria Lions Club

See page 11 for more details.

A Word from your Governors



Lion Mimi Stoker, District Governor 8-L

To the Legendary Lions of 8-L Thank you so much for a wonderful year serving as your District Governor. I have enjoyed it so much, I have enjoyed working with you, and meeting with your clubs. If for some reason I did not get around to your club PLEASE get in touch with me, I'd still love to visit your club. Serving as DG has made me aware of just how much hard work, time and money you put into serving your club, and community. Nobody does a better job at raising funds to support local, state and International programs as Lions.

A special thanks you to Tony Simpson who has accepted the challenge to serve as DG beginning next month.

Tony, who has served as President of the Red River Club, will attend DG classes at the International Convention and be installed on July 2.

To all the clubs who have met or exceeded their goals for 2017-2018--CONGRATULATIONS on your hard work. To those of us who came real close--we will continue to work hard next year.

Congratulation to North Shreveport & Bossier Central for completing their applications for Club Excellence Award Applications If you are still working on your application, you have until August 31, 2018 to submit the form.

This year's state convention in Kenner was great and 8- L was well represented. I would like to Congratulate Bud Byrd of the North Shreveport Club for receiving the Presidential Medal, for his years of outstanding service to Lionism.

In May, I had the pleasure of representing Louisiana Lions at the State Conference for the Council for the Blind in Natchitoches. I was thrilled that several of the adults attending the conference had attended the Lions Children's Camp years ago. Congratulations also to Lion Don Brown PCC as he was installed as President of the Board of Directors for Lions Children's Camp.

To the outgoing club officers thank you very much for working with me this past year and to the new officers-- Congratulations on your new positions and thank you for accepting the challenge. If I can help you, please contact me.

This next year will be fantastic as Lions from around the world enter into our second century of service. As WE SERVE those in need around the World I thank you for your hard work, dedication, time and financial support. Please remember to continue your support for our Louisiana Lions Camp and Eye Foundation.

Yours in Lionism,

Mimi Stoker

DG 8-L

Lion Debbie Fitzgerald, District Governor 8-I

There is not one person in District 8i that has not made an impact in my life. You stood by me as I found my way in Lionism. It took a while for me to become who I am as of today, but I am proud to be the person I am. Lionism taught me to be strong, to endure times I struggled most and to be the confident woman I am now.

Over the course of the year, I learned the true meaning of "The Power of We!"

I would like to thank the council I served with. "We" stood by and behind each other. You taught me to strengthen my areas of weaknesses and to believe all things are possible. You became family. Each of us knew we could reach out for help, for encouragement, and answers. We knew that what we discussed remained with us and there was nothing that couldn't be worked out.

Thank you to the 27 clubs within the district for believing in me and those who invited me, thank you. Public speaking has never been easy for me and yet you were very patient and kind. As the year passed, and confidence replaced fear, speaking to groups became easier. I learned so much from you. I am proud to be a Lion in District 8i and look forward to the years ahead.

Thank you to my family who understood the days or weekends of travel. May I teach our little ones to Serve with love and honor to our community in order to make someone's life better. Never turn your back! Remember, where there is a need, there is a Lion.

Thank you Robert for the example you were during your years of being DG. Through watching you I learned.

So as this term is coming to a close...I am proud of each and every one of you. Keep up the great work you are doing. Please make sure to add your service online. They are going to make it easier with the My Lion app. It will be available on your phones and also on the computers.

Yes, this is June. And yet, "We" are still making differences within our communities. Continue being the best "We" all can be. Lift each other up, reach out a helping hand, forgive when we don't meet expectations and encourage when one feels defeated.

We still have a chance to increase our membership. I sent a message to each club concerning the membership fee being waived. Now is the optimum time to "Just Ask"! I would have never dreamed it would be as easy as it has been. Going to the people and talking one to one has been the best way to gain new members. Good LUCK!

I am so proud to announce "WE" have a new all Women's Club. The club's name is NELA Lady Lions! It is beginning with about 50 women

Where there is a need, there is a Lion!

District Governor 8-I

Debbie Fitzgerald

Lion William Arceneaux, District Governor 8-0

Year in Review

District 8-0 has experienced an overall positive year. Clubs are engaging members as they provide service and activities for their local communities. We have sponsored campers to camp sessions, provided eye glasses to those in need and screened young children thru our Cub Sight program. This could not have been accomplished if not for the Lions of District 8-0 that see in their heart to give back and help others in time of need. WE SERVE.

In providing the service we all so well recognized for, we still have one hurdle to overcome – Membership. To continue to perform this level of service to our local communities, our Children's camp and the Cub Sight / Eye Foundation we must continue to strengthen our membership. This year we have roughly 15 new members, great job. Sadly, to say we will be possibly losing 3 clubs due to dwindling membership along with members that slide out the back door. Hopefully we can keep some of the members in the failing clubs by getting them involved in other surrounding clubs.

We all ask the questions as to why we are continually losing members. I hear the same issues from other civic organizations about membership concerns. So, why are we losing members. Are we not doing our job in orientating new member, are we not an inviting club. Are we not planning service activities for our clubs? It appears something is not working. ALL of us working together need to identify the problem and look at ways to change our way of doing things. I, personally am tired of hearing the response "That's the way we have done things in the past". The past worked back then, but things have change over the years and we now need to re-think our approach and change with the times.

Each club needs to look at where they see their club in the future. What changes do we need to incorporate to get there? A couple of items for discussion:

Club meetings – could we benefit from having only one meeting per month instead of two. Would a different day or time be more acceptable? Are meeting productive or boring. Do we encourage participation from the new members? Active clubs should be holding at least one service activity per quarter.

Branch Clubs – This is being pushed from LCI as an alternate idea for new growth. Branch clubs can be started with as few as 5 members. This could be local bikers group, professional organization, group of young adults. The list is endless on the opportunities that exist. The Branch Club pays dues, benefits from the LCI framework but does not have voting rights. A Branch Club, once it reaches 20 members can be recognized as a Lions Club.

Service – as we are all aware of, we were founded on the idea of providing a service for our community, where ever that may be. We have done a great job in fulfilling that challenge. What's next. How can we improve the service and opportunities we currently provide? Getting information out as to what the Lions Club organization is and does will not only open the doors for membership growth, it makes us visible in the eyes of the local communities. The more hands on task, means more service that can be provided.

Leadership – for any organization to grow and succeed, there needs to be leadership to guide the ship. As in the work place, we should always be looking to train that individual to replace us.

To move forward we need to be looking for that Lions club member that is wanting to step and take an active role. You will be seeing more training opportunities available on the local level (RLLI for example) that provides information and direction for those interested in leadership not only on the club level, but the District and Multiple District level as well. New leaders bring new ideas to the table. I encourage all Lions members to take advantage of the training opportunities available. It will not only help in your growth as a Lion Club member, it will benefit you in the work place as well.

In closing, it has been a good year. I enjoyed working with my fellow governors as well as our council chair and secretary to the council. We voiced our opinions as spokesman for our districts on issues that needed to be addressed and in the end, came to agreement as the what was the best path forward for the Multiple of Louisiana. Hats off to the outgoing council.

The end is not over as I will continue to take an active role in my District and the Multiple District as mover forward in the next centennial of Lionism. Belinda and myself both enjoy helping and providing for others thru our club and District service activities. See you around

Lion Melvin Abbott, District Governor 8-N

They always tell you that as District Governor that your year will fly by quickly.....this year has zoomed by. Seems that we as MD 8 District Governors was just in Chicago for the 100th Lions Clubs International Convention, where we were able to hear tunes from the Beach Boys, and Charlie Daniels Band

Back in Louisiana we started making club visits and planning for our 2017-2018 Fall Leadership Conference where International Director visited from Bridgewater Massachusetts, and she talked to us about the jar of buttons (Members) and how we kept needing to replace our buttons in the jar as some were lost along the way (retention...i.e Death, and aging) and how to properly apply each button according to their skills and capabilities. Each button has a specific purpose and must be applied correctly.

District 8 N started the year with 951 members and 36 Clubs, and as of May 16, 2018 at this writing we have 972 members and 37 Clubs as we Chartered a new Club (Baton Rouge LSU Campus Club). District 8N set goals of gaining new members and reducing our Lost members, with a increase of 1% of Women Membership.....today we have 87 added members (including 25 members from the Campus Club) and 66 lost members which includes 8 deceased members.

District 8 N supports both of our State Projects with many of our 37 clubs making donations to both.....We have registered 41 Campers as of 5/6/18 for our Summer Camp this year, and has made donations to the Eye Foundation as well as 32% of our clubs had made contributions of over \$30,000 to Lions Clubs International Foundation this year.

District 8 N has screened over 9,400 children this year which equals about 33% of all children screened throughout the state through Cub Sight.

Past District Governor Zeke Dunaway received the Presidential Leadership Medal, and Past Council Chair Francoise Ratard and Lion **Billy Jeansonne** received Leadership Certificates from our International President Dr. Naresh **Aggarwal**. Congratulations to them for their achievements.

As we draw close to the end of this Fiscal Year...I am proud to have served as District Governor for District 8N, and looking forward to moving our District Forward in the coming years. DGE Scott Dudley has been to several different trainings throughout the year getting ready to become our District Governor and carry our momentum forward and putting together new clubs and increasing our membership in District 8N, but he needs your help.

In a few days he will travel to Las Vegas Nevada to further prepare for the new year, and I will join him there on the 28th of June.

Melvin Abbott

District Governor 8N 2017-2018

The Power of We !

225-200-3561

abbottmelvin@gmail.com

Lion Jeff Williams, Sr. , District Governor 8-S

Lions of MD8,

Here we are at the end of journey and the time has come for us to surrender the reins of the District to our District Governor Elect, Lion Red, He takes over a group of dedicated Lions that will help guide the District in the forward direction of those who have preceded him as leaders of our truly great District. I wish him all the best as I return back to my club where it all starts for any Lion and I look forward to getting back to where it all started.

As for the District this year we had a great year with two service projects which is always a great thing. We as District also took part in a legacy project where we applied for a Disaster Preparedness grant which we used to assemble a Disaster Relief Trailer. As a District we raised over \$ 2000.00 for childhood cancer and \$ 4108.00 for Leader dog. This was all accomplished with the efforts of all the members of our great District. I thank you for a job well done.

As a District our Lions service hours have reached over 54,521 for the year with just a little over a month left. Membership is always a subject that we talk about and try to improve on we are at 1061 for the year which is down for the year but we as a District have still served our communities well with the members we have. We can still improve membership we just have to find what works for our clubs.

I have enjoyed my time serving as District Governor I thank everyone for everything that you do and continue to do it. I thank my club for all the support over the past three years. I wish everyone the best in the future and look forward to what the future holds for my Club, District & MD.

To my wife Valerie my biggest supporter throughout this journey I call life, I would like to say thank you for your Love and Support I could not do any of this without you! I LOVE YOU!

DG Jeff N. Williams Sr.



**Lousiana Lions Camp
Officers 2018-2019**



*"To me there is no picture so beautiful
as smiling, bright-eyed, happy children;
no music so sweet as their clear
and ringing laughter."*

P.T. Barnum



2018 Summer Campers



Planning for Success

Getting ready for another LI-ONS Year means **PLANNING RETREAT TIME....** IF you are serious about having a really great year. We have 5 **NEW SERVICE AREAS** that we can use to our advantage in reaching new markets (new members & volunteers). This year Lions International encourages all clubs to prepare more detailed plans to include multiples service projects, as well as how to use these projects in Public Relations, Membership recruiting, and Leadership Development. Obviously, this will require more than a one hour planning session.

Available on the website is the **Club Quality Initiative** which is a Strategic Planning Tool for club use. Anyone in your club could use it and facilitate your retreat. We recommend that you engage a facilitator who is not a member of your club. That way every one in your club can participate in the process without anyone being burdened with being facilitator. Your Global Leadership Team member would be happy to assist.

Planning for a Facilitated Meeting

- **Set the Venue:** meetings work best if the venue is conducive to a comfortable discussion.
- **Set time Aside:** Meetings should not be rushed. There is a specific process to be followed if it is to work well.
- **Prepare a Facilitation Plan:** This is not a blind process. Areas to be covered should be pre-arranged. The Club Quality Initiative provides all the required areas.
- **Make Plans for Documentation:** To better be able to follow up, and identify process issues in a group, it always helps if a meeting



- is documented.
- **Prepare Psychologically:** it is important that everyone takes time to prepare internally if you are going to have a successful meeting; not just the Facilitator.



The Club Quality Initiative has 'homework' that should be prepared beforehand.

You should plan to consider

- Service Projects
- Service Projects with Youth
- Leadership Development
- Membership Drive
- Modifying your Club to attract Millennial members
- Enhancing Member Satisfaction.
- Enhancing your Club's Culture
- Contributions to State Projects
- Contributions to LCIF (Think Melvin Jones Fellowships!!)
- New Methods of Publicizing what your club does.
- What Works; What doesn't
- Start Something NEW
- Discard Something OLD

Good Planning takes time and thought. Don't shortcut.



We Serve

Regional Lion Leadership Institute

October 12-14 , 2018

Louisiana Lions Camp, Anacoco



Designed specifically for club members who would like to develop their personal skills such as improving your communication skills and motivating your club members...

Become the prime motivator and GO-TO person in your club. From setting personal and club goals to working with teams, you will learn time management skills to get more out of life and your service work. You will have a deeper understanding of how to serve in your club.

Registration is \$75; first come— first serve. 8 Meals, Lodging at the Camp and all materials are included. A detailed information packet will be sent to each registrant. Contact your District Governor today

**or call MD-8 Leadership Coordinator Michael Kennedy 318-209-0616
sportsman64@gmail.com**

Lions Leadership Institute- Louisiana





