

July, 2020

Since the first Lions Club in Georgia was chartered in 1920, the Lions of GA are celebrating an historic Centennial year. Add to that the Covid-19 pandemic which has challenged all of us. This year will be remembered. I am honored to be your District Governor during this historic, challenging year of 2020-21 as District 18-I Builds for the Next 100 Years.

With "We Serve" as our Lions Club motto, District 18-I continues to support our communities as best we can. Clubs all over the district have supported the USDA Truck to Trunk Food Box Giveaway with fresh fruits and vegetables going to those in need. Wearing their masks Lions have loaded 20-pound boxes of food into vehicles without the driver getting out. Some clubs have done this through their community food bank giving out other foods and supplies in addition to the fresh products. Many of the clubs have also given out diabetic education flyers with the food. These flyers are downloadable from LCI website (the part for which you don't have to use a password) under Resources. My understanding that this USDA program has been extended and your club can still apply for a truck to come to your community. See the District 18-I website for the forms. FYI: a full truck carries 1920 boxes or 24 pallets.

Since the International Convention was cancelled this year, in another historical move all of the International Board are remaining including our International President Choi. His theme last year was Diversity. This year's theme is **United in Kindness and Diversity**. It is a collaboration with the Kindness Matters theme. Of special note is that this International Board expects to hold their April, 2021 Board Meeting in Atlanta.

Throughout North America Lions Club membership has been decreasing for 40 years. The historic North American Membership Initiative (NAMI) is designed to charter new clubs in each district, add new members to all clubs in the district, increase member satisfaction so that members continue to be Lions, and give support to leadership in the clubs. The entire District Governor Team including the GAT coordinators, the district committee chairs and the Zone Chairs are here to serve you and help you with your personal Lions Club goals and your club's goals.

We started before the year began to get Zone Chairs and club officers trained. If you are a club officer and were unable to take training, please contact me (trudert@comcast.net) and I will send you information to get you trained. Throughout the year, feel free to call (h) 770-446-1428 or text 404-713-6934 or send an email. Note about phone calls: Leave a message with the word Lions included and I will call you back.

Membership is under the capable hands of our Nami Champion and membership cheerleader IPDG Steve Williams who wants you to Net 2. During the first 6 months of this historic Lions year we have the opportunity to invite new members and reinstate old members without the \$35 LCI entrance fee. This is a great opportunity especially in this time when potential members may be under economic strain. There is also a wonderful reward for those clubs with

10 or fewer members as of July 1 to be up to 15 or more members by the end of August.
Remember "Together we CAN, Together we Will."

During our Build a Vision summit in April, district Lions Club members mentioned their desire to have a district newsletter again. Lion Mary Williams (mrs1swjr@bellsouth.net) of the Forsyth Lions Club has agreed to be the editor. The deadline for the first newsletter is July 15. If your club has an event you want publicized with the District 18-I Lions or you want your past successes to be shared, please send your information and pictures or flyer to Lion Mary as well as to Lion Kevin Walsh (kevinwalsh409@gmail.com) our webmaster.

As in previous years, the Vice District Governors will be making some official visits to help me and to get to know the clubs in our district. If your club is inducting new members, installing officers, or recognizing recent members who have completed the Proud Lion Award, (information available on the website), I am willing to attend your meeting, if my schedule allows.

DG Trudy Rudert
United in Kindness and Diversity
District 18-I Building for the Next 100 Years