

MD 7 Arkansas Lions

September/October 2016

Volume 1 Issue 2

From DG John Collier

MD7 Council

Lion Bill Hankins

PDG

Council Chair

Lion John Collier

District Governor (7-L)

Lion Bobby Tucker

District Governor (7-I)

Lion Bill Levins

District Governor (7-O)

Lion Barbara Williams

District Governor (7-N)

Lion Wanda Barnett,

PDG

Administrative Secretary

MORE MOUNTAINS TO CLIMB

We, the lions of Arkansas, have come to a fork in the road of Lionism. As the theme of our International President, Bob Corlew, states, we have “New Mountains to Climb.” Each of the roads leading from this fork contain mountains, and each road is a path for the next hundred years of Lions Club service.

One of the roads is a path of high mountains and many casualties, but this path is familiar to us. It is almost comfortable for us. This wide path is the one we have been following for the past few years – the road of a multiple district in transition. The less familiar path is also filled with new mountains, but they are not as high although they may have more foothills.

“District in transition to what?” may be your question. We are supposed to be transitioning to districts where each has 1250 members and 35 clubs. This goal is Lions International’s requirement to be a district. Not only do none of our “districts” meet this requirement, but we continue to lose members at an alarming rate, in spite of numerous membership drives in every district. Not only do we continue to lose members, but we are also losing clubs each year. We may be comfortable in our path, but we are not on the path that leads to the goal.

The unfamiliar path – the one with smaller mountains and more foothills – is the path to full LCI compliance through merging districts. As we approach our State Convention in April, you will be hearing a lot about merging districts. I urge each Lion and each club to give the path of merging districts serious consideration. We have proven that the comfortable path we are currently on does not lead to the goal. We need to increase the depth of our leadership pool and expand our district’s finances in order to provide the appropriate services needed by our clubs. We continue to have the same Lions serving in state and district positions. We are recycling District Governors, which is not a healthy position for a multiple district. By concentrating the existing leadership into fewer districts, we can have stronger leadership to develop new ideas, new leaders, and new Lions in order to help the districts and state grow even stronger. (By “new” Lions, I don’t necessarily mean young Lions, but diversification would definitely bring new ideas.)

Baseball great Yogi Berra once said, “When you come to the fork in the road, take it”. Well, as I began, we are at the fork in the road. We must decide which path Arkansas Lionism will take. The path we have been on is not working, and we must change directions. Merging districts alone will not solve the problems we are facing today. However, it will put us on a path that will solidify us and give each new district a better opportunity to climb the mountains we will face in the second century of Lionism.



Redistricting/Merging—the rest of the story

For the past two newsletters, you have heard why we need to re-district—I think you, the Lions of MD 7, need to hear the rest of the story.

I posed the question on LinkedIn Lions Clubs International –

Have any of you re-districted your MD in order to meet membership requirements? What have been the pros and cons of it???

Here are a few of the responses—there were no pro responses:



Barry Brockbank Hi, a good conversation to stimulate thoughts on this subject. Our district 201/Q2 was the result of a redistricting and for many years there was rivalry and rubbish going on. A bit like mixing water and oil. Each district has its own way of doing things and suddenly this is upended and things are uneasy for quite a period of time. In our case, the northern most large city still feels isolated and I uninformed 20 years on. Quite frankly I think it is better to have a small district than meeting the 1250 numbers set by LCI. Help and guidance can turn things around quickly **Show less**



Jodi Burmester What a nightmare! To add to that, the new District's have a larger footprint, requiring even more volunteer hours from the new District/DG Team to try to support more clubs. This leads to a smaller pool of candidates willing to step up to serve as DG, which means the quality of leadership is likely to decrease. Thus begins a scary downward spiral where everyone loses. **Show less**



Scott Harkey We came close to re-districting two years ago. It was mainly being pushed by the smallest sub-district in our MD. The cons far outweigh the pros in my opinion. I have looked at the membership numbers of several MDs that have re-districted over the years and I have not found a single one that is on a growth pattern. Most lose many Lions in the first two years afterwards. If it does not matter to the clubs what district or zone they are in, why do so many Lions leave Lionism after re-districting? The additional load on a DG can be daunting if his VDGs are not functioning as a team. Clubs become disenfranchised because of the lack of contact with the DG and the message of LCI received through him. State projects suffer as they have to deal with the new structure and who should be contacted about support. The ONLY pro from this I can see is that for once a district can have a shot at representation on the International Board. Maybe instead of destroying our district structure for..... **Show less**



Mike & Cheri Appel MD5M redistricted before I joined but luckily the district that dissolved into 2 other districts were all rural and did not involve a huge city which could have caused problems. Our district was in transition for 2 years and we were able to pull ourselves out with dedication by a handful of Lions spending the time and energy to double up struggling clubs and actually starting some. If you can, save your district by participating the GMT/GLT training and walking the miles to do it. What club wants to fold if they have 30+ years in Lions?



Tom Rayfield Our MD26 redistricted in 2007 from 11 districts to 7. It was nightmarish but on the other side we had 7 new districts and several naysayers that said in less than 5 years you will be in the same condition ---- they were right - we now have 3 districts in transition for at least one year, most 2 years or more! Our multiple started with 12,000 now down to 9,078 -- losing approx +275 members a year! So what's the answer? My belief is finding leaders that are fully committed to keeping our existing members, adding members to existing clubs and working hard to establish a minimum of two new clubs--- so how do you do that? You provide the leadership and guidance to build a district that is so great no one wants to leave and people who aren't members want to be a part of your district. Can it be done, yes it can!!



e.gary villanueva It is only necessary if the District cannot support itself with declining activities and membership. Meaningful, innovative, inspiring projects keep the District strong and solvent. PDG Rev. E.Gary Villanueva, MD, PhD.

At the recent USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, there was a seminar on Redistricting. Many Arkansas Lions attended.

The contents of this seminar should be reported to the Lions of MD 7.

Nine years ago, MD 9 redistricted from 9 districts to 7 districts—they spent two years planning using Lions from every District to make the plan.

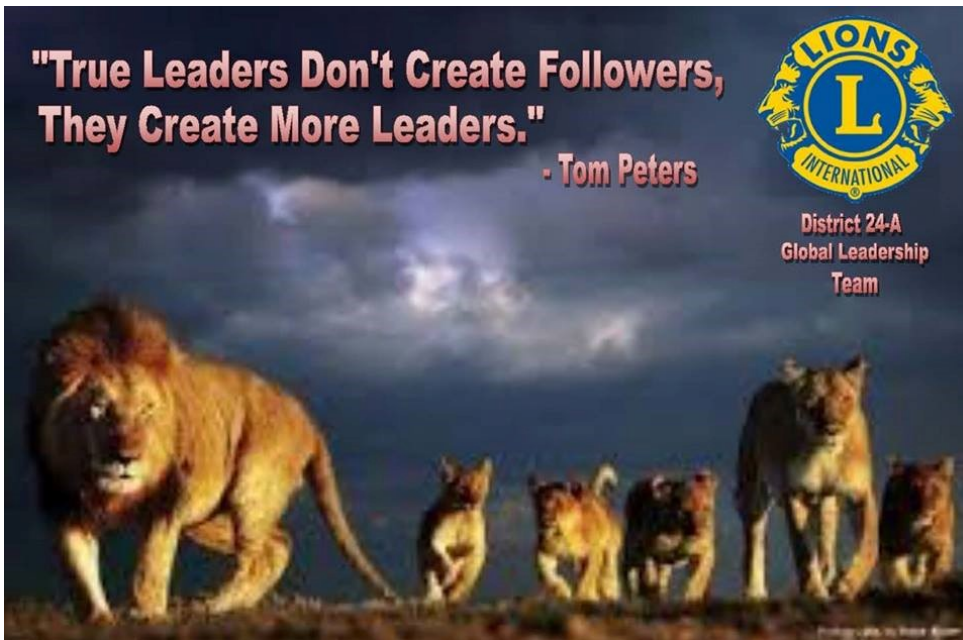
They then presented it to the Council for consideration—they then spent many hours visiting every Club and explaining the plan—everything was very transparent—no secret agendas!!

Each district was given more than 1600 members. After that they voted—they had a positive vote.

At the present time, they have 3 districts in transition—one of the Districts is lower than they were before they redistricted.

They are not able to recruit DGs, ZCs, and other leadership positions, so it obviously doesn't provide a larger leadership pool!!

I also spoke to some of the Oklahoma delegation—they were supposed to redistrict this year, but they are having to wait as they have already lost 3 clubs since they presented their plan to LCI—and will have to revise their plan.



Because Redistricting/Merging is a very controversial issue in MD 7, no additional articles concerning this will be published in the MD 7 Newsletter.

If you wish to publish those articles, you may put them in your District Newsletters.

We want this to be a positive newsletter that deals with positive things our Clubs are doing within their Districts—and information that all Lions need to know.



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

OUR FOUNDATION

Dear Lions, Did you know that since its founding in 1968, our Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has given out more than US\$950 million in grants? That is an incredible amount of money. What is even more incredible is that we have improved the lives of hundreds of millions of people throughout the world. We could not have done that without you! Did you also know that LCIF relies entirely upon donations from Lions and friends? Yet, only six percent of Lions give an individual donation to LCIF each year. You read that correctly: only six percent of Lions give an individual gift to LCIF. To those who have already made a donation this year, thank you. If every Lion gave only US\$100 this year, we could raise US\$140 million. A single US\$100 donation can provide measles vaccinations for 100 children, a week's worth of food for a family after a disaster, life skills training for a classroom of students through Lions Quest, or a loan to an entrepreneur whose business will support an entire family. That donation can, in fact, change someone's life. For clubs who donate as little as US\$50 per member, LCIF will award special Club Giving Banner Patches. Please encourage every member of your club to support LCIF this year. Help us to help those who need us most. Can I count on you to [demonstrate your commitment](#) to the LCIF mission? Sincerely, Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada Chairperson, Lions Clubs International Foundation



An Exciting Opportunity for You! There is an exciting new way for you to be involved with LCIF at the local level. By serving in the newly created Club LCIF Coordinator position, you can be an ambassador for LCIF in your Lions club. You will share stories about the Foundation's work, motivate fellow Lions to support LCIF, and further LCIF's mission. With support from your District Coordinator and LCIF staff, you will help shape the future of LCIF. Talk to your club president today if you are interested in becoming a Club LCIF Coordinator.



Grant Application Deadlines are Approaching LCIF provides [grant funding](#) to assist Lions districts in developing and implementing large-scale humanitarian projects. These humanitarian grants help Lions expand their outreach and increase their impact within local and global communities to serve even more people in need around the world. Applications for Standard, Core 4 and International Assistance Grants are due no later than October 7, 2016, for review at the January 2017 board meeting.



Where there's a need, there's a Lion



SINCE 1917
100
Be A Lion!

Dear Lions,

World Sight Day is fast approaching. On October 13, 2016, organizations around the world will shine a light on preventable blindness. Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has been supporting Lions-led initiatives for decades to prevent blindness and empower those who are blind or visually impaired.

Our Sight for Kids partnership with Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Companies (JJVCC) is just one way we are working to provide vision care. The Sight for Kids program has screened the vision of more than 23 million schoolchildren in Asia Pacific, Kenya and Turkey. These children might not otherwise have access to vision screenings. This program provides glasses and follow-up care as needed and is for free to children in need.



As your club prepares to recognize World Sight Day, please keep LCIF and Sight for Kids in mind. For every photo you share through the Donate a Photo app (USA, United Kingdom and Japan only), Johnson & Johnson will give US\$1 to the Sight for Kids program. You can also download the Charity Miles app and raise money for Sight for Kids just by taking a walk. Both are easy ways to make a big impact around the world.

Please join LCIF and your fellow Lions by showing your support on World Sight Day and every day.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada
Chairperson, Lions Clubs International Foundation

Share Your Passion for LCIF



You believe strongly that LCIF strengthens all Lions. You follow the LCIF blog and share the stories with your friends and fellow Lions. You encourage everyone you know to financially support the Foundation. You have been looking for a way to get more involved with your club and LCIF. You sound like a great candidate for the new Club LCIF Coordinator position! Now is a great time to tell your club president that you are interested in filling this position.

Lions Commemorative Coin Available Soon

The Lions Clubs International Century of Service Commemorative Coin will provide a worthy tribute to the millions of Lions who have served their communities during the last 100 years. The US\$1 coin will be available in early 2017 to celebrate Lions Clubs International's 100th anniversary. In addition to highlighting a century of charitable services to people in need, a surcharge of US\$10 for every commemorative coin sold – without any cost to taxpayers – will be donated to Lions Clubs International Foundation. These funds will support ongoing Lions programs that assist the visually impaired, disabled, youth and those affected by major disasters. Watch for updates as we get closer to the launch of the coin.



LCIF's Disaster Relief Work is Ongoing



August 2016 was a month wrought with disaster. When torrential rains led to devastating floods in Louisiana, USA, LCIF responded with two US\$10,000 emergency grants and a US\$100,000 Major Catastrophe grant. Days later, when a massive earthquake shook central Italy, LCIF answered with another US\$100,000 Major Catastrophe grant. With the generous and ongoing support of Lions, LCIF continues to be a beacon of light in some of the world's darkest hours.



Convention season has begun. Our four districts have their conventions in October, and I am making plans to attend all four district conventions.

Periodically, I think, "How can I better explain how important Lions Quest can be to our children?"

Bullying – do you know our program is proven to reduce bullying? One of the most shown commercials on television is a PSA for bullying. Does that tell you how much it permeates our schools and society? We have something EASILY integrated into ANY classroom and PROVEN to reduce bullying.

I have started a new job in the Arkansas Department of Corrections. (Yes, I go to prison every day and they let me out every night.)

What are your thoughts when you see the news? Something like, "You see it on the news, but you never know anyone that it actually happened to." I now know people that it has actually happened to. A couple of stories this week really struck home:

One inmate talked about how he lost it when his ex-wife's boyfriend treated the inmate's children so badly that his twelve year old daughter committed suicide his other children were beaten.

Another inmate was called to my office so that I could have him call his family. His family was letting him know that his sixteen year old son was in critical condition: he had been shot in a gang-related shooting.

Let's provide the tools to help our children BEFORE they get to this point.

Can you imagine being a teacher, having a student act up, send him to the office, and have the principal just say, "Don't do it again," and send them back to the classroom? We have the tools to help our children while they are still in school.

Get the word out – we are able to apply for a LCIF Core 4 Grant to provide workshops and assist any school or youth program to get the program started. With your assistance, we can meet our 33% match before we even apply. Please call me (870-403-4465) or email me (toni.shockey@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

10/8/2016

Toni Shockey, Chairman
Arkansas State Lions Quest

****RESERVE ON YOUR SCHEDULE NOW****

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

October 7-8, 2016 District 7-O

St. Bernard's Auditorium, Jonesboro

October 14-15, 2016 District 7-L

UACC, Hempstead Hall, Hope

October 21-22 District 7-N

East Union Baptist Church, Little Rock

October 28-29 District 7-I

Antioch Baptist Church, Conway

From Mid-South Lions Sight and Hearing



The tournament brochure is attached for distribution to everyone you know who plays golf or could be a potential sponsor. Our goal this year is to have at least 18 teams and 18 sponsors. We could also use a few volunteers to help with registration, putting contest, observing par 3 holes for hole-in-one prizes and after-tournament clean-up.

While we'd love to have a team from your group, please take a good look at the tournament brochure and decide which level of sponsorship you can do. There are several levels of sponsorship available, but a TEAM would be the best option. We already have Lions teams from Hot Springs Village Evening (AR) and Byhalia (MS) and expect a few more Lions Club teams...LIKE YOURS!!!

Since it's a Friday tournament, there are lots of ways to make a weekend out of it. Graceland, Beale Street, the Memphis Tigers welcome Bowling Green and Ole Miss hosts Georgia for football that weekend; there's casinos, resorts, famous eateries and all sorts of neat things to do while you're helping Mid-South help those in need.

Take a few minutes and look over the brochure, then make up your mind to come and join us...or at least become a sponsor. Just let me know how you plan to participate.

Thanks for all you do to help the sight and hearing impaired in your area.



Join us to play a great golf course with friends and/or clients while helping the Lions provide sight and hearing to those in need.

Check www.midsouthlions.org to see some of our "Miracles"

Cherokee Valley Golf Course
6635 Crumpler Blvd
Olive Branch, MS
901-525-4653



MID-SOUTH LIONS
SIGHT AND HEARING SERVICE, INC.
A 501c3 NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
FED ID# 62-0632682

930 MADISON AVE SUITE 101
MEMPHIS, TN 38103
901-543-5466
888-546-6042
www.midsouthlions.org
SCAN THE QRT CODE TO ENTER ONLINE



2015 MID-SOUTH LIONS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Proceeds benefit the sight and hearing impaired
CASH PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED



Ware Properties

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015
REGISTRATION & LUNCH 11 AM
TEE TIME 1 PM

FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE



Our four-person charity golf tournament will be played in scramble format.

Men's; Ladies; and Senior (over age 60)
Tees will be played.

Cash Prizes will be awarded for top three (3) teams in each flight. Number of flights will be determined by number of entries.



SPONSOR AND TEAM OPPORTUNITIES

MAJOR SPONSOR—\$2,500
TWO (2) Teams entries plus company name/logo in all media advertising plus Banner signage. Featured logo on www.midsouthlions.org website and all amenities listed below

EVENT SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES—\$1,000

HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZES **HOLE PRIZES**
TOURNAMENT SHIRTS **EVENT PRIZES**
PUTTING CONTEST **LUNCH**
Team entry plus full page ad in event program and day-of-event recognition, signage (3), goody bag opportunities, recognition plaque

FACILITIES SPONSOR—\$500

DRIVING RANGE
PRACTICE PUTTING GREEN
BEVERAGE CART **SNACKS**
One-half page ad in event program and day-of-event recognition, signage (2), goody bag opportunities, recognition certificate.

TEE AND/OR GREEN SPONSOR—\$150

Listing in event program, signage (1) on tee or green, goody bag opportunity

TEAM SPONSOR—\$700

Includes team entry and tee/green sponsor

TEAM ENTRY FEE—\$600

TEAM NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

TEAM MEMBERS EMAIL ADDRESSES

SPONSOR INFORMATION

SPONSOR LEVEL _____

NAME ON SIGN _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER or CHECK ENCLOSED

EXP DATE _____ AMOUNT _____

SEND COMPLETED FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:
MID-SOUTH LIONS

930 MADISON AVE
SUITE 101
MEMPHIS, TN 38103

Phone: 901-543-5466
Fax: 901-543-5464
E-mail: midsouthlions@msnl.com

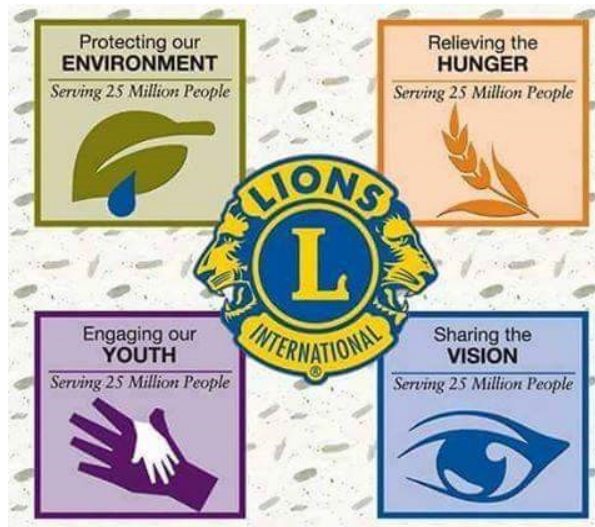
CENTENNIAL PROJECTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Each Club should have appointed a Centennial Chair and/or Committee to keep the Centennial on the minds of our Lions. Please submit activities your Club has used to celebrate the Centennial—and they will be published in the Newsletter.

Your ideas and activities will inspire other Lions to plan their activities.

Also please submit your Legacy projects—pictures would be great to inspire other Lions of Legacy projects their Clubs could do.

Also be sure your Club reports your Centennial activities on MyLCI, so that your Club will qualify for Centennial badges. These activities are things are Clubs currently do, so be sure to report them as Centennial activities!!



Most of the Arkansas Lions at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

All DG's were asked to send info and registration for their Conventions—
these were the only ones I received.



DISTRICT CONVENTION 7-N
October 21st & 22nd, 2016
Arch Street Fire Department
15923 Arch Street
Little Rock, AR 72206



(A) Name			Badge Name (if different)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lion	<input type="checkbox"/> Lioness	<input type="checkbox"/> Leo	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member
	No. of Years in Lionism		Highest Office Held	
(B) Spouse			Badge Name (if different)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lion	<input type="checkbox"/> Lioness	<input type="checkbox"/> Leo	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member
	No. of Years in Lionism		Highest Office Held	
Mailing Address:				
Phone :	Home ()		Business ()	
Email:				
FEES:				
REGISTRATION FEE covers the cost of breakfast, breaks and one designated meal. All attendees must pay full registration fee to participate in the meals or seminars. Individual meal or seminar tickets will NOT be available. HOTEL: Holiday Day Inn Express – 3121 Bankhead Drive, Little Rock, AR. Room Rates - \$99.00. Please mention District 7-N Lions Convention. Reservations: 501-490-4000.				
	Postmarked by:	<u>10/09/16</u>	<u>10/10/16 or later</u>	
	(A)	\$25.00	\$45	
	(B)	\$25.00	\$45	
	Amount Due:		\$	

**Make checks payable to District 7-N, and mail to:
 Lion Cody Snider, 512 Sample Road, Hazen, AR 72064**

Participants are invited to a Welcome Dinner & Cowboy Social on Friday, October 21, 2016.

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!



District 7-I Convention
 "Reaching the Summit"
 Antioch Baptist Church
 150 Amity Road
 Conway, Arkansas
 October 28th & 29th, 2016



Please print the following information.			
(A) Your Name:		Club Name:	
Check One: () Lion () Lioness () Leo () Non-Member			
Number of Years In Lionism:		Highest Office Held:	
		Current Office (If Any):	
(B) Guest Name:		Club Name:	
Check One: () Lion () Lioness () Leo () Non-Member			
Number of Years In Lionism:		Highest Office Held:	
		Current Office (If Any):	
Mailing Address:			
Home or Cell Phone: ()		Business Phone: ()	
E-Mail:			
<p>REGISTRATION FEE: Covers the costs of the seminars, continental breakfast, breaks & luncheon. All attendees must pay full registration fee to participate in the meals & seminars. Individual meal or seminar tickets will NOT be available.</p>			
Postmarked by:	<u>October 14 or Before</u>	<u>October 15 or Later</u>	<u>First-Timer</u>
(A)	\$35.00	\$45.00	\$25.00
(B)	\$35.00	\$45.00	\$25.00
Amount Due:			
<p>Make checks payable to: District 7-I Convention. Mail to: District 7-I Convention, Lion Bill Bounds, P.O. Box 367, Conway, AR 72033</p>			

Convention Attendees Are Invited To Join Us for Friday Fun Night

150 Amity Road, Conway, AR 72032 ~ 6:00 pm

Please Bring a Silent Auction Item

Hotels Nearby: Country Inn & Suites (501) 932-0500

Hilton Garden Inn (501) 329-1444

Comfort Suites (501) 329-8548



Lions Clubs International

Dear Lions,

Please remember that all Lions Clubs, Districts and Multiple Districts that have annual gross receipts less than \$50,000 and do not have to file Form 990 or 990-EZ, must file the [e-Postcard](#) (also known as 990-N). Please note that this is an IRS requirement.

Please note that this is an IRS requirement and that the 990-N electronic filing system moved from Urban Institute's website to IRS.gov in February 2016. All filers must register at IRS.gov prior to filing their next Form 990-N. This is a one-time registration if the designated Lion files annually. If the designee changes from a prior year, the new designee must register with the IRS.

Please refer to the below regarding annual filing requirements:

- Gross receipts normally less than \$50,000, file a 990-N
- Gross receipts greater than \$50,000 and less than \$200,000 and total assets less than \$500,000, file a 990-EZ or 990
- Gross receipts greater than \$200,000 or total assets greater than \$500,000, file a 990

The e-Postcard is due by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of your tax year.

Lions

Clubs operate on a fiscal year, July 1 – June 30, and the e-Postcard will be due by November 15th each year. Please note that *an organization cannot request an extension for filing the Form 990-N.*

If you do not file, you risk losing your tax-exempt status. Any Lions Club that fails to meet its annual reporting requirement for three consecutive years automatically loses its tax exempt status under the new law. A club may get reinstated if they complete an [application](#) for recognition of exemption even if they originally fell under a group exemption.

Every Club and/or District must have an employer identification number (EIN), even if it will not have employees. The EIN is a unique number that identifies the organization to the Internal Revenue Service. To apply for an EIN, you should obtain a Form SS-4 and its Instructions from the IRS. You may also apply for an [EIN online](#), by telephone (1-800-829-4933), or by fax (fax number at the location accepting applications from your state). It is important that the Clubs and Districts are using the correct EIN for their annual filing.

For frequently asked questions about tax issues and regulations affecting Lions clubs and leadership, go to the [Lions Tax FAQ](#). Go to www.irs.gov/eo for complete details and while you're there sign up for Exempt Organization's free email newsletter, EO Update, to receive up-to-date information posted on the charity pages of irs.gov.

Legal Division
Lions Clubs International

USA/CANADA LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUM

MD 7 was well represented there with many first-timers. As usual the sessions were well-planned with useful information.

3 MD 7 Lions received Degrees from Lions University.



**DG John Collier
Masters Degree**



**VDG Myrna McGee
Masters Degree**

**Lion Brad Baker
Bachelors Degree**



The dog wasn't there, but Lion Brad went to his room and was there during the ceremony.


People Served:

1 12,393,776

