



MD 7 Arkansas Lions

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A View From The Chair

A Time For Reflection

Greetings Arkansas Lions! The Lionistic year of 2014-2015 is almost over & I cannot believe that it has gone by so fast. This will be my last article, as Council Chair, and it is time to reflect. So many amazing things have happened in my travels & visitations across Multiple District 7, in addition to the fantastic State Convention that we experienced in Searcy, back in April. It has definitely been a year I will never forget. I've met & laughed with so many amazing Lions. It has done nothing, but to reinforce Why I Am A LION.

The reason that I first joined the Lions is simple, I was asked. I had recently ended my enlistment with the U.S. Air Force (after 12 years) and was working part-time at the Post Office. I knew that I would have some extra time & a good friend asked me to attend a Lions meeting with him. Since my Dad was a Lion, I found it fitting that I give it a try. I did attend and liked what I saw, and also liked the opportunity to serve my community.

The reason that I remain a Lion is more complex. I remain a Lion because of the feelings I get when I am able to perform a good deed, in the name of Lions, such as when I first met the family of 7-month old Travis, who was in dire need of glaucoma surgery. I will never forget the day that I was blessed with the opportunity to present the financial-assistance supplied by our Lions Club to his family; Mom, Dad & Grandmaw. While Travis slept in his car seat, all three spontaneously hugged me in appreciation of the gesture. Or when our Club received a thank-you note from a lady that we assisted, whose son had a bizarre accident that detached his retina, and he was able to receive vision-saving surgery. The most recent example was when I was able to hear the moving testimonial from a woman, who lost her home during last year's tornado disaster in Vilonia. Our Lions Alert program helped her & her family and she wanted to express her appreciation to the Lions.

MD7 Council

Lion Matt Webber
PDG
Council Chair

Lion Bob DeVinney
District Governor (7-L)

Lion Phyliss Fry
District Governor (7-I)

Lion Angela Smith
District Governor (7-O)

Lion Cody Snider
District Governor (7-N)

Lion Wanda Barnett,
PDG
Administrative
Secretary



As a Lion, I have also experienced the gratitude that many people feel toward Lions for past good deeds. Many times, while standing in the middle of a parking lot promoting our “Recycle For Sight” program, people have stopped to donate & often times follow-up with a story of the time the Lions provided them with eyeglasses or some other Good Deed. These are just four of many experiences a Lions Club member may encounter for his/her involvement. I also feel a deep pride when I witness fellow Lions drag themselves out to solicit for Lions projects, even if they, themselves are ill or otherwise handicapped. Individual club & district awards and/or recognitions are nice, but pale when compared to the appreciation expressed by the people that we actually help. The appreciation we experience, for our good deeds, is something that no amount of money can purchase. That is why I remain a Lion.

Our challenge, as LIONS, in growing Lionism is two-fold. First off: attracting new members. The obvious solution is to “Just Ask”. We have all heard that if each Lion recruits two (2) new members, one (1) as a personal replacement & another for growth, we (Lions) will be in good shape. The second part is in retaining a cadre of veteran Lions... and that requires a bit more than just asking. It takes involvement of both our current members & our newer members in Club project and fund-raising activities. It also involves educating our new members, through an orientation program tailored to our individual communities. There are few feelings in life as good as the feeling one gets from receiving a “Hug” or just a “Thank You” from a recipient of a good deed. Don’t we want to offer that opportunity to more people & invite them to be a Lion?

As I will soon be turning this Council Chair duty over to District Governor Angela Smith, I would like to take the opportunity to thank this year’s Council of Governors for a great collaborative effort over the past months. DGs Angela Smith, Phyliss Fry, Bob DeVinney and Cody Snider have worked well together and Multiple District 7 should be proud of them. I appreciate each one and their support throughout this year. I feel relieved, but also a little sad, as this year comes to a close. I will still be around to help in any way that I can, if any Lion asks. I’m looking forward to working with the MD-7 Global Leadership Team (GLT) and PDG Leanna Rich. Good things are happening and I anticipate more to come.

Lastly, I want to wish Council Chair-Elect Angela all the best & hope she enjoys her year as much as I have. Good luck with the cast of characters that you will be working with. It will be a great adventure!

Thank you ALL for making a difference in your communities. Thanks again for ALL you do, as Lions! As I always say, “If It’s Meant To Be, It’s Up To Me...and YOU.”

It’s A Great Day To Be A LION!!!!

Lion Matt Webber
MD-7 CC



COMING EVENTS

June 26-30 - 98th Annual Lions Clubs International Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii

July 1 - New Lions Year Begins - Congratulations to all Officers for the coming Year!!

July 7-8 - Quest Workshop
Cherokee Fork Baptist Church, Hot Springs, AR

MD 7 District Conventions

District 7-L - October 30-31 - Texarkana

District 7-I - September 25-26 - Mt. Home

District 7-O - October 23-24 Heber Springs

District 7-N - November 6-7 - North Little Rock

Paragould Lions Club



Paragould Lions receiving a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from the Greene County Community Fund. This grant is to provide eye exams and to purchase eye glasses for those in need that live in Greene County.

2015 FOOD BANK PRESENTATION OF CEREAL DONATION FROM MD 7 CONVENTION



MD 7 – Home of Hospitality and Ingenuity

At the MD 7 convention in Searcy this past month, Lion Greg and I were inspired by your stories of Lions' service to the community and the world. From the moment we were met at the airport, or hosted at World Services for the Blind, it was evident that you Lions of Arkansas excel in your ability to rise to a challenge.

We would like to extend our congratulations to the host committee in Searcy. We want to recognize Lion Lindsay Elliott who not only led the committee, but also managed to help us solve the Friday evening Murder Mystery. (Note: Greg has given up his life as a Torchy Lounge Singer / Assassin and I have given up my life as Moll in favour of more satisfying Lions Service.)

Amidst all the fun and fellowship, we learned so much about your Mid-South Lions Sight and Hearing services, the Alert program work and your local community projects, as well. No matter where we go in the future, we will remember the impact you have on your neighbours and those in need. Congratulations to each of the Lions Clubs, and to your District Governors Angela, Phyliss, Cody and Bob for being strong leaders inspiring service in each of your districts.

As you move to Strengthen Your Clubs, I hope that you will strategically seek out new Lions who can help you Strengthen Your Service and share in the thrill of being able to make a difference for others less fortunate.

Sincerely,

PID Dr. Patti Hill



Engage Students with Social and Emotional Skills



Lions Quest

Professional Development Workshop K-12

July 7 - 8, 2015 | 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Center Fork Baptist Church • 1101 South Moore Road, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Lions Quest is a K-12 comprehensive social and emotional learning (SEL) youth development program that promotes character education, bullying prevention, drug awareness, and service-learning. Lions Quest is research and evidence based with proven results featuring flexible implementation models, educational strategies, a strong parent component, and links the home, school, and community in promoting the development of healthy and responsible young people.

Skills for Growing (SFG) K-5

SFG capitalizes on the enormous potential of children and directs their creative energies into becoming capable and healthy young people with a sense of direction, solid skills, and a strong commitment to their families, schools and communities.

Skills for Adolescence (SFA) 6-8

SFA helps middle school youth, parents and teachers cope with the physical, emotional and social challenges of the early adolescent years. The program builds important competencies by promoting positive social attitudes, respect and responsibility, while using service as a strong prevention tool.

4 AVAILABLE WORKSHOP TRACKS

Skills for Adolescence for Out-of-School-Time (SFA for OST) 6-8

Adapted from Lions Quest's highly-rated middle school curriculum, SFA for OST provides staff with a positive youth development program that meets the unique demands of out-of-school time settings.

Skills for Action (SFC) 9-12

The SFC development of personal, social, and thinking skills, combined with service learning, helps young people gain school-to-work competencies, improve self-confidence, build resilience, maintain commitment to school, and promote social and cultural understanding.

Workshop Goals:

Become
Lions Quest
Certified!

- To examine ways a classroom and school-wide learning community can support the development of capable, healthy, young people of strong character.
- To learn how Lions Quest programs address the key elements of positive youth development and prevention, including the integration of social and emotional learning, character development, and service-learning.
- To understand and experience program components and materials.
- To explore the implementation possibilities for the classroom and school-wide learning community.



Registration fee: \$40

Includes workshop sessions, curriculum kit, workshop materials and lunch.

Sponsored in part by the generosity of Arkansas Lions

Register online at

www.lions-quest.org

or call 1-800-446-2700

Questions?

Email lions-quest@lionsclubs.org



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**"THE LOCAL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION PROTECTION ACT"
INTRODUCED TO PROTECT VOLUNTEER GROUPS**

Oak Brook, IL, May 14, 2015 – Rep. Steve Chabot (OH) announced the introduction of HR 2290, "The Local Volunteer Organization Protection Act," on May 13, 2015. The bill would amend The Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 by affording the same liability protection to volunteer groups and organizations as are already provided to individual volunteers, except in cases of willful misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or flagrant indifference to safety.

"I am proud to sponsor 'The Local Volunteer Organization Protection Act,' " said Rep. Chabot. "Local non-profit organizations make our society better by fostering democratic values often in partnership with government entities, and we should protect them from having to file bankruptcy as an alternative to incurring prohibitive legal expenses based on litigation that has little or no connection to their volunteers or employees. We need to do more to protect the future of local service organizations, and this is a bill that merits the public's trust."

Lions Clubs International, with its unique perspective on the need for additional protections for its service clubs as well as other volunteer organizations in the United States, worked with Rep. Chabot's office to develop the bill.

"The bill protects the important contribution that non-profit organizations like Lions clubs make in their communities," said Scott Drumheller, Executive Administrator of Lions Clubs International. "With more than 11,000 Lions clubs and 325,000 members throughout America, Lions are addressing real needs and making a real difference through hands-on service and humanitarian projects. This bill helps create an environment that supports and encourages the valuable service that so many communities depend upon."

The bill's provisions would prevent the application of vicarious liability rules to non-profit organizations who conduct their activities using primarily volunteers and who did not expressly authorize a harm-producing activity in anticipation of raising charitable funds. In addition, the proposed amendments would extend governmental immunities to nonprofit organizations for actions taken at the request, or on the authority, of a government entity that would be immune if it undertook the actions itself without creating or requiring governmental immunities.

The "The Local Volunteer Organization Protection Act" also has the support of prominent U.S. volunteer organizations, representing more than 2 million of America's community leaders in all 50 states, each of whom is dedicated to improving the lives of others through volunteer service:

Rotary International * Kiwanis International * YMCA of the USA * Optimist International
Sertoma International * Soroptimist International of the Americas * Zonta International
Ruritan National * Toastmasters International * Y Service Clubs International U.S. Area
The National Exchange Club * AMBUCS, National * Civitan International * JCI USA