

Good Morning Lions of District 26-M1,

Lions in District 26-M1 are encouraged to attend the upcoming 2023 District Convention which will be held in Rolla, Missouri at the Lions Club Den. Attendees will hear presentations from Lion Diane Pitts, International Director, and her partner-in-service Dr. Joe Pitts from Chappelle, South Carolina.

The 2023-2024 District Officers will be elected to serve as our District Leaders. Perhaps most importantly, Lions in District 26-M1 will be voting on amendments that have been approved at previous District Cabinet meetings. This year we have an amendment to raise the District Dues by \$2 per member annually.

Each member in a Lions club currently pays \$5.25/year in District 26-M1 dues. These funds are used to operate the administrative functions that are required for our district. District income is nearly totally dependent on these payments. For a number of years the general membership trend in our District has been one of slow decline causing an attendant reduction in district funding resources. Realizing this, your district leadership strives annually to control costs while actively pulling out all the stops to stem the tide of membership losses. As a result, 26-M1 has so far maintained the lowest dues of the seven Lions districts in the state of Missouri. But costs can only be cut so far, and many uncontrollable factors are at work in the area of membership losses.

The actual amount of money that District 26-M1 has to operate is calculated by multiplying the number of Lions members by the now current dues rate of \$5.25/year. With the total number of Lions in our district now being less than one thousand that means the District annually receives less than \$5,000 to support the following required activities:

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| • Fund the District Convention | \$500 |
| • Bond the District Treasurer | \$150 |
| • Publish the annual District Directory | \$400 |
| • Pay for postage and printing supplies | \$350 |
| • Develop and maintain the District website | \$200 |
| • Maintain the District Zoom teleconferencing account | \$150 |
| • Provide funds to match Lions Foundation (LCIF) grants | \$250 |
| • Pay for memorial tributes for Past District Governors | \$250 |
| • Pay for District Governor Appreciation Awards | \$100 |
| • Pay for the District Peace Poster Winner's award | \$100 |
| • Pay for Annual District Governor Pins | \$300 |
| • Reimburse District Governor's annual expenses | \$500 |
| • Reimburse District Governor's expenses for the International Convention | \$500 |
| • Reimburse 1 st Vice District Governor's annual expenses | \$1,000 |

- Pay 1st Vice District Governor's USA/Canada Forum registration \$300
- 1st Vice District Governor's Mid-South Lions Leadership Weekend expenses \$300
- Pay District Governor-Elect's state convention hospitality fee \$700
- Reimburse 1st Vice District governor Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute fee \$240
- Reimburse 2nd Vice District Governor expenses \$1,000
- Reimburse mileage expense for 8 Zone Chairs \$1,000
- Reimburse mileage expense for District Cabinet Secretary and Treasurer \$500
- Reimburse mileage expense for District Membership Coordinator \$400
- Reimburse mileage expense for District Leadership Coordinator \$400
- Reimburse mileage expense for District Service Coordinator \$400
- Maintain District Hearing audiometer calibrations \$125

From the foregoing list of expenditures you can see that costs to operate the District for one year come to over \$9,000, but our current annual budget provides less than \$5,000 to operate these District activities. To offset that significant shortfall and avoid the need to have further cutbacks to District services, in recent years leadership has had to transfer large sums of money from the District reserve account to balance the budget. Sadly, I must tell you we will deplete those reserve funds in less than two or three years if our operating expenses continue to outpace our annual dues income.

The suggested \$2 per year per member dues increase will go a long way toward allowing us to maintain the current level of funding, but we will all need to work on growing our membership to offset the remainder of the deficit. Your District leaders ask that you give your support to this dues increase, and redouble your efforts to retain existing members and recruit new ones.

Yours in Lionism

Lions Jennie Mosher

District Governor 26-M1 (2022-2023)