

Fellow Lions,

This Lion year is quickly flying by. We will soon be saying goodbye to District 37-S and Welcome our New Single District 37. This was all a result of a loss of Clubs and lower Membership in other Clubs throughout our MD 37. According to LCI, we need to maintain at least 1250 members in each District, if we wish to have a vote in the operation of our International organization. In our District 37-S our membership has decreased by over 200 members(1450+ to 1250+) in 7 years. This was happening throughout our MD 37, with some of our 5 Districts below 1250 members. This was probably the main reason for re-districting.

On July 1, MONTANA will now become a Single District with 69 Clubs and over 1900 Lions. We will not be part of a Multiple District. Numerous meetings have been held planning the administration structure of our new Single District. Only PROPOSALS and SUGGESTIONS have been so far, and we need suggestions from Montana Lions.

Our DUE structure proposal will probably create the most interest.

The current dues are as follows: LCI-\$43; MD-37-\$11; 37-S-\$8 for a total of \$62.

Does not include any additional Club dues.

PROPOSAL: LCI\$43; SINGLE DISTRICT 37-\$25 for a total of \$68.

Yes, this is an increase, and you have every RIGHT to ask WHY?

Now I will try to explain the reasoning!!

Simple Answer, many of us want to HIRE someone to help us GROW our existing Lion Clubs and START new Clubs. LCI had a program 20+ years ago with paid organizers that worked quite well in in the U.S. And Canada. All other countries voted this program out because of the cost and because they were growing without it.

As you can see by the drop in membership #s, what we are doing now is not working or we wouldn't be re-districting. TRUE GROWTH dose not come from changing our District Boundaries every few years.

Hiring Someone who is good at ORGANIZING comes with a price. Many Colleges and Universities have degree programs in this field, but for the right individual or individuals a degree would not be required. MONTANA is a very large State and it will be expensive for anyone to travel as an organizer! We probably can only afford someone part-time. I am suggesting

that we use \$15(maybe more) of our new district dues for the purpose of hiring an organizer/recruiter.

We are all Lions because we want to give back and help our communities and it is easy to see all the wonderful things each Lion Club has done for and in their Communities! However, most of us are not very good at sustaining club growth and starting new clubs has not been successful for a long time!!!

I feel we have to try something different. Let's hear your thoughts! Come May 1 & 2, to the MD37 Convention in Bozeman or Put your thoughts in writing or call me. Your opinions are all very important. The District only Exists because we have individual Lions working TOGETHER!!!

This is my explanation of the proposed new dues for new Single District 37 and I hope it is somewhat clear?

Happy Trails to all LIONS!!

District Governor Jim

**PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWS WITH YOUR CLUBS**

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