

## **Governor's Letter**

It seems as if my year as your District Governor has been put on the fast track. Here it is the start of April and only three months until our International Convention in Las Vegas. I have enjoyed my term as your District Governor. I have been able to visit almost all our Clubs in the District. You have all received me warmly and let me talk about what Lions International is doing as well as talk about the programs of our District and your Clubs. I hope that I have answered your questions or concerns and left you with Lions knowledge that you were not aware of. I have seen and heard about what your Clubs have been doing in your communities and how many of you help one another in your neighboring Clubs, that is what we do, "We serve."

More and more of our Clubs are participating in the Spot Vision Camera testing in our schools, saving taxpayers thousands of dollars for these tests while providing the much-needed testing for our youth and referring many children on to an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist for further testing. This past year, we have added three more cameras to our District, bringing the total to ten available cameras. Some of our Clubs have purchased their own cameras. If your Club is not testing, please consider doing so.

As I write this, I cannot stop thinking of the journey our Webmaster is going through. Lion Andy Erickson and his wife, Lion Joyce, have been dealing with a medical problem with Joyce for the past six months. The Blueprint has been on hold as Lion Andy continues to be by Joyce's side. Both are dedicated Lions and hope to return home soon so they can continue to "Serve."

I have to thank our District Webmaster, Cyndi Bainbridge, for getting our important Club and District information out to all our Clubs. This has been a challenge, but much needed service in our communications to all of you. Our website has approximately 30% of our membership, so I again ask the club's Presidents and Secretaries to forward any District or Club announcements out to your own Club membership. I thank Cyndi for filling this most important role.

I am finishing up my final District Governor visitations to the Clubs of our District. I have found that Club visits are the best part of the position. It gives me the chance to see and hear what all of our clubs are doing in their communities and to answer questions and concerns of each member. I thank you all for your valuable participation in these visits and thank you for your hospitality.

Our last Cabinet meeting in Eureka on February 24 was fairly well attended and very much appreciated by our members in the northern part of our District. On Friday evening, we kicked off the Cabinet meeting at the famous Samoa Cookhouse in Samoa. Our host and logistic member, Cyndi Bainbridge, planned on 20 attendees, we ended up with 44! The challenge was met.

The following day we had 54 attend the Cabinet meeting and conducted the business of the day. Having a Cabinet meeting in the northern part of our District was a risk, however an opportunity for Humboldt Clubs to attend a District meeting. In the end, members of the Eureka Host Lions, Ferndale Lions, McKinleyville Lions Club and a couple from the Trinidad Lions attended the meeting. The McKinleyville Lions hosted the meeting. We began with a breakfast wake-up followed by a terrific lunch. Zone Chair, and President of the Ferndale Lions Club, David Griffiths provided his homemade and decorated Lions cake to top off our dessert. I would like to extend many thanks to McKinleyville members, Lion Region Chair Bob Wainwright, Zone Chair Cyndi Bainbridge, Lion Mark Wainwright, Lion Ann Pinske, Lion Mike Pinske and Lion Pat Thomas for setting up the hall and preparing a great luncheon feast.

Our District Convention will be in Redding on May 17 to 20.

During the month of March, I was visiting many Clubs including American Canyon, Corte Madera, San Rafael Las Gallinas St. Patrick's Party (which I was the cook-corned beef), Konocti (corned beef), Calistoga (corned beef), Six Rivers (I will talk about the visit at Convention) and our first 4-C2 Club, San Rafael Host. On March 31, I helped hide Easter eggs at the San Rafael Las Gallinas Club's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt, which I started. Of course many of our Clubs hosted egg hunts, as well as Student Speakers Contests, which are in full swing as we get down to Regional and District contests to be completed by the end of April.

As I entered April, I have been surprising a few Clubs with my unannounced visit to deliver 5-Year Multiple Chevrons and a letter from our International President to recognize members for their participation in the mission of Lions International, and acknowledgement of their years of serving.

Many of you have heard that we have a new Club in our District. The Santa Rosa Kasthamandap Lions Club. Their Charter date with 24 members was on March 5, 2018. As I report this to you, arrangements for a Charter celebration are in the works. As soon as we have a date, time and place, we will get that information to all our Clubs as well as other Districts.

I cannot believe that my year as your District Governor is coming to an end. I have enjoyed my visits to most all of our 56 Clubs. Your grace and warmth at each of my visits has been so inspiring to me, as I have learned so much about what you are doing in your own communities. We are doing so much and I think about how much more we can do if we continue increasing our membership.

Our Convention Committee has been very busy working on our upcoming District Convention, May 17 to 20 at the Red Lion in Redding. Registration forms have been sent out and are also available on our District website. This Convention looks to be a fun-filled time for all attendees. We start on Thursday evening with our annual Past

District Governor' BBQ. This is available for all attendees, not just the Past District Governors.

Friday - morning take in the sights of the Redding area.

12:00 to 4:00 - there will be an officer training session with PDG Barry Fredenburg.

3:00 to 4:00 - the Cabinet Officers will meet with PDG's and International Director, Nick Xinopoulos.

5:00 to 6:30 - Hospitality – hosted by Cloverdale Lions

7:00 – Dinner – The theme is DISNEY! Please wear your favorite Disney costumes and be filled with fun and laughter!

Saturday

8:00 to 9:00 - breakfast followed by opening of Cabinet meeting. After the Cabinet meeting the Convention will open with nominations for District Governor as well as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor's.

Noon – we recess for our annual Food Faire, including Rubber Duck races.

2:30 – we will hold our annual caucus followed by Cabinet Officers meeting with District Governor.

Evening – Governor's toast with Cabinet/PDGS, the Grand March, followed by dinner and entertainment provide by "Starship Enterprise."

Sunday morning starts with voting at 7:00 am followed by Memorial service at 8:00 am with breakfast following. Convention reconvenes with some awards, election results and acceptance speeches followed by closing remarks.

See you REAL soon,

District Governor Les

**"If you can dream it, you can do it"**