

Do We Need to Change Our Way of Thinking?

Thank you Lions of South Carolina for a great Multiple District Convention. We had the highest attendance we have had at a State Convention in a long time. The presenters were fantastic and the speakers for the Breakfast with the President and the Awards Luncheon were better than outstanding. The Member Celebration, where we looked to our proud past of Lions who have gone before us, and the President of our International organization inducted new members for our bright future was a very emotional service for many. You, the Lions of South Carolina, came and participated. That is what made it a great convention.

Coming and participating makes all events better. There were a lot of changes to the format of the convention, but by you coming and participating the event was a success. It is the coming and participating that sometimes changes our thinking and our actions.

Do we need to change the way we are thinking for our clubs to grow? Of course, because the way we are thinking right now is only leading to a declining membership. Do we need to change the way we are thinking how we run our club meetings? Yes. We get a lot of new members in, but they leave because of 1) lack of service projects and 2) poorly run meetings. This has been documented by LCI many times. Do we need to change the way District and Zone meetings are held? Yes. Many clubs do not attend these meetings because they see little benefit in attending.

Many changes are needed at all levels of Lionism. Changes are made with a change in thinking. Let's ask ourselves as individual Lions, "How do I need to change my thinking to help myself grow as a Lion? How do I change my thinking to help my club, zone, and district grow?" Our challenge then is to change our thinking to grow. We begin to do this by coming and participating in Lions events. Change is inevitable. It is our reaction to it that counts.

There has been a lot of talk about redistricting. Yes, I should have caught the two-thirds rule about calling a special Multiple District meeting. I am sorry I did not. I do apologize to the Lions of South Carolina. The purpose of redistricting is to become a district as defined by Lions Clubs International. There has been talk about redistricting for the last 20 years. When do we again become a district as defined by our International organization? Given our membership numbers as of the end of March by the Club Health Assessment (See chart below) and our declining membership pattern over the last seven years, redistricting becomes a viable option.

Month	32A Current Members	Needed to be a District	32B Current Members	Needed to be a District	32C Current Members	Needed to be a District	32D Current Members	Needed to be a District
March	1053	197	806	444	925	325	1019	231
New clubs needed		10		23		17		12

There seems to be no resistance to redistricting itself, it seems to be a matter of when. That, my fellow Lions, is up to you. We can wait another decade to pass while we talk some more, or we can act sooner. It is up to you.



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