

A NEW "STONE" HEAD

"Loyalty to petrified opinions never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul in this world-and never will," Mark Twain. Mark Twain is my literary hero and some of his characters I am envious of. It is said that some his thoughts are timeless. I agree, especially with the "redistricting issue."

All four of the Governors believe that if we do not redistrict South Carolina Lions and our clubs are doomed. Membership is dropping and it is costing Lions money, leadership and service opportunities for our communities. To Twain we do not want to make changes... Why?

Ten years ago, when I was Vice Governor the first time around, we were responsible for looking at plans for possible redistricting. We had close to eight thousand (8,000) Lions and we were beginning to lose members. No one wanted to do anything. They said all we needed to do is get new members and form new clubs. It did not happen and we have steadily lost members and clubs. Those Lions who are against redistricting are saying the same thing and have done nothing to bring in new members or new clubs.

What else are they saying? Well one thing is that this designed to make PID Jay Patel a candidate for International President and PCC Diane Pitts a Centennial International Director. Those who are saying this are 100% wrong. With our proposal, the earliest we MD32 Lions could vote and have an International officer elected would be during the 2019-2020 Lions year, well after the Centennial year. Additionally, I can name at least ten to fifteen good Lions who would be able to run for an International office. That includes me.

Some are saying we cannot do anything until we change our Constitution and By Laws. This too is erroneous. We cannot make these changes until Lions Club International (LCI) approves a redistricting proposal.

Some are saying we should look at other plans. PCC Joe Lark and a committee of Lions came up with eight to ten plans. They were very complicated and most would not be approved by LCI. Combining the districts as proposed by the Council is the simplest and least complicated plan. It also allows us the go back to three or four districts with ease, if our membership numbers improve.

How about our Vice District Governors? They are being screwed!!! Granted most were elected before this came up. Is this fair? Having been a Governor twice, I will say no, not really. However, during terms, there have been various issues and items that have come up that were not "fair". That comes with the job. If someone wants to be Governor only if things are fair should not be Governor. I have not heard a single Vice Governor it was



Randy Croom
District Governor, 32-C
2014-2015
714 Woodland Drive
Kingstree, SC 29556
(H) 843-446-8561
(C) 843-382-7325
lionrandy@hotmail.com

unfair. They were surprised, concerned, disappointed and confused. The unknown is scary. I know each of the eight Vice Governors and they are to a person excellent Lions. They will do an outstanding job. It is the naysayers who are having the major problems.

I have a simple solution. Beginning in July, my Council and the Vice Governors will travel our proposed (new) districts answering questions and getting input from those interest Lions. We will work with the VDGs as “THEY” develop the needed changes. We trusted them when we elected them so let’s let them do their job.

What if we don’t redistrict? We may have to have a major dues increase to cover items talked about at the Toronto Convention. These can be discussed as DG Jim and I tour the district. I was talking to a couple of “snowbird Lions” whose multiple-districts were forced to redistrict by LCI and those Lions were not very happy with the results.

Remember, redistricting will not save us. It will help us as leaders and Lions as we attempt to make life-saving changes. If you hear a Lion leader, past or present, argue against redistricting using membership and new clubs as the answer, just ask them “How many new Lions have you sponsored?” and “How many new clubs have you chartered.” If their answers are none or my wife, then they have no plan for saving this great organization.

DG Randy