

## How Much Have We ‘Strengthened the Pride’ in 2014-2015?

International President Joe Preston’s theme for us this year has been “Strengthen the Pride” and here at year’s end we would like to look back at the year and ask ourselves, How Much Have We “Strengthened the Pride”? How much have we strengthened the Pride thru Service? How much have we strengthened the Pride thru involvement? How much have we strengthened the Pride thru Giving? How much have we strengthened the Pride thru investing in training others to lead?

So how have we done? In regards to “Service”, it would appear that we have done much better than in years past. Our Service Hours indicate we have recorded 30,133 hours as of 5/25 and that we have served 110,079 people this Lions year. I believe those are very impressive numbers for our District. It appears that we are doing our best in 32D to assist our fellow Lions in achieving the Hundred Million people served by our Centennial Celebration ending in July 2018.

How much have you done in regards to being more “Involved” in your clubs activities? I know from experience that in most of our clubs, 10% of the Lions do 90% of the work in the clubs. How are you contributing to the service work of your club? Have you made a commitment to do more and to become more involved in the service to your community? We obviously have developed many new and different ways of helping in our communities that we did not do several years ago. I am speaking of our Reading Action Programs and our Vision Screening programs. Neither of which require a great deal of effort on the part of Lions. Reading to youngsters in our local schools is effortless and OH so rewarding. If you have not volunteered at your local Elementary or Primary School yet, please make Lions Year 2015-2016 the first of many to get INVOLVED! You will not regret it for one moment.

How have we done thru “Strengthening the Pride Thru Giving”? According to information I have gathered, we are doing some, but not enough. South Carolina LIONS Charitable Services was still \$30,000 short of the goal set for Lions contributions as of the annual membership meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>. According to the information that I have, only 10 out of 36 clubs in our District had made a contribution to LCIF thru the end of April. Only 11 of 36 clubs had made a contribution to Storm Eye Institute thru the end of April. Donations to Leader Dogs for the Blind were much better due to the funds raised to support the Kennel Refurbishment project. We do a great job supporting local projects in our communities; however, if we are telling people we are raising funds to support Vision and Hearing (which is our Mission) and not supporting the above Lions programs, are we being honest with our fellow citizens and ourselves?

Our fourth area of Strengthen the Pride has been in the investing in “training others to lead” area and I am not sure we have done a good job with this in the past year. I know that Lion Rhett Hair has done his best to get as many Lions trained as he had time for; however, on the local level, I wonder how much training has taken place to help our Club members grow regarding Leadership. How many of your New Members have been provided New Member Orientation? In the beginning of the year, we provided a “Tool Box” to every club we visited and in that “Tool Box” was the New Member Orientation Guide. We challenged each club to provide each new member with an Orientation and fill out the fourth page of the manual and send it to me as a part of the contest to see which club was using it the most. I have received no forms from any club other than my own



**Richard “Rick” Pressly  
District Governor 32-D  
2014-2015**

1971 Secession Street Ext.  
Abbeville, SC 29620-5164  
(H) 864-446-8561  
(C) 864-634-5993  
rjpressly@wctel.net

Abbeville Club and those were for the three new members that I sponsored this year. We need to do a much better job in this area of “training others to Lead” or we might as well turn in all of our Charters and join Rotary. Without Leadership, we will just continue to flounder!

In closing, I wish to thank each and every one of you in each and every club across our Great District, for the honor and privilege of serving as your District Governor over the past year. My three year process of preparing for and being your District Governor has been three of the most rewarding years of my life. It has been a distinct pleasure to meet and get to know all of the Lions in our District, our Multiple District, and the Lions of other States and Countries from around the world. This whole process has helped me realize how special our relationship as Lions is here and throughout the world. We are truly one Pride! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Yours in Lionism,  
Lion Rick Pressly