

“STRENGTHENING THE PRIDE THROUGH GIVING, READY TO ANSWER THE NEED”

Do you all remember the line in our oath that we took, when we joined our Lions Club that says: “We promise to give our fair share”? That is what the title above is all about. Giving to help others in need. We do a really good job of raising funds from our friends, neighbors, members of our communities, agencies in our towns and cities; however, how many of us “give our fair share”? I am willing to admit that for the first ten or so years of my membership in Lions, that I did not do a good job of ‘giving my fair share’! Once I recognized the fact that I was willing to ask others to donate thru brooms, calendars, candy days, etc. and I was not giving my fair share, I changed my attitude and behavior. I encourage you all to do the same. I know that there are many Lions in our District that do give their fair share; however, I also know that there are many that do not. I know that by the number of Lions that are Sustaining Members of SCLCS. It only cost us \$50.00 a year to be a Sustaining Member. I would like to see every Club in our District be recognized as 100% Sustaining Members. In the last few years there have only been a couple Clubs to gain that recognition at the State Convention. Ask yourself this, if you choose to not make a donation and your club chooses to not make a donation and someone in your community needs cataract surgery or hearing aids and they get support from SC Lions Charitable Services, who pays for that surgery or hearing aid?



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

1971 Secession Street Ext.
Abbeville, SC 29620-5164
(H) 864-446-8561
(C) 864-328-6806
rjpressly@wctel.net

In addition to SCLF and SCLCS, there are the other Lions sponsored organizations that are worthy places to make donations. How about Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), Leader Dogs for the Blind, Storm Eye Institute, other Guide Dog programs. Diabetes’ Awareness, just to name a few.. Most Lions would never think about making a personal donation to LCIF. We leave that up to our clubs and the people in our communities that help with our fund raisers, yet in the time of disasters, LCIF support is right there. In April 2008, we had a tornado rip thru Abbeville and leave many homes damaged and out of power for days on end. I was contacted by our District Governor at the time Lion Barbara Beckham and informed we were getting a \$5000.00 grant from LCIF and the money was here in less than a week. We made use of that money by providing 100 \$50.00 food boxes to the needy in Abbeville. That same year there were devastating fires in the Myrtle Beach area and they received a \$10,000.00 grant from LCIF to aid in the relief. Ask yourself the same question as we did above, if a member of our community seeks and receives assistance from any of the Lions sponsored agencies and we are not helping with that support, who is picking up the tab.

Lions and Lions Club sponsored agencies are known worldwide for our generosity and helping hearts. Are you one of those Lions that “Gives their fair Share”? Let’s see what we can do this year to achieve 100% participation in all Lions sponsored agencies.

DG Lion Rick
“Strengthening the Pride Through Giving”