

JUST REWARDS

“No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave,” Calvin Coolidge. We have just finished our mid-winters and State conventions. One of the highlights is the presentation of awards. Most noticeable are the medals and Certificates of Appreciation. These are highly coveted by most “upper level” Lions leaders. I have received two medals and two certificates. I am extremely proud of these honors. To be honest, there are times I am envious of others when they receive one of these honors. Additionally, I don’t remember who received most of the awards over the past ten years. However, I do remember what our Lions have done.

I remember Jim Starnes’ Hurricane Sandy relief effort. Rudy Jo’s “quiet” monetary contributions to both LCI and SCLF are fond memories. Jay Patel showed our “international” touch with the India Project. Dianne Pitts’ leadership in the Campaign Sight First was great. She even celebrated my birthday at one of the meetings. Others are Jim Varn with Youth Exchange, Matt Jones with his Leadership, Tom Woods, Ed Johnson and Dick Hester with SCLCS, and the over whelming respect for Franklin Mason. I know that each of these have been honored with at least one of these honors but I do not remember which or when. Their accomplishments are what are important. This weekend we honored Lions with Presidential and Leadership medals, Presidential Certificates of Appreciation, Franklin Mason Fellows, Hall of Fame, and Lion of the Year.

We should, as Lions, honor the everyday Lion. We should honor the Lions who sell the most brooms, picks up the most trash on the highway, the one who collects the most glasses, and the one who always remembers to shake hands and welcome everyone to the meeting. There are many members in our club and Lion family who deserve recognition for their deeds. Please say “Thanks” and give certificates of appreciation.

I am very proud of the honors I have received. There are two that stand out the most. PDG George O’Neill presented me with a medal he had made up during his year as Governor. After this year I will be a regular Lion again so I can wear it with my dressy clothes. On a visit to the Mullins club, Dr. Mason got me aside, shook my hand and said “Governor, you are doing okay.” That was shortly after he saw me in the summer uniforms so I don’t know if he was talking about my mental condition or he approved the job I was doing. Anyway, we Lions appreciate any show of gratitude, no matter how large or small they are.

DG Randy



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