

## Think Before we Speak and Act

*"Darn, I've done it again." Barney Fife, after shooting his empty pistol. October is one of the designated membership months. Although we do well recruiting, we are like Barney shooting ourselves in the foot when retaining Lions because of our behaviors. I give some examples, from the top to the bottom.*

*At a state convention, we had a PID threaten a young lady who worked with another sight related organization. He threatened to have her fired and have her organization removed from the rolls of approved charitable organizations. My district lost four Lions, including a Zone Chair who wanted to be Governor.*

*We had a PID make racial comments about Lion Matt Jones. We nearly lost Lions Matt and Eileen. Additionally, we lost several Black Lions in our District. The same was done to PID Jay Patel and District B lost members.*

*During my first term, we had an incident with the Marion club and two PIDs and several PDGs. Lion Gregg Turner asked me to check out some information about the club. A couple of days later, I was lambasted by the former leaders telling me what I had to do and that they have been in touch with LCI about the situation. I found out that they had not contacted LCI and what they told me to do was against LCI policy. I also found out that their purpose was tied into a personal dislike for two PDGs in the club. At that time, the Marion club was one of the stronger clubs in our District. In an effort to protect its leaders, it pulled in to a shell, quit involvement in District activities and slowly began to die. Today the club is in danger of closing. Additionally, Marion was a sponsor of the Francis Marion University Campus Club. Without its parent club's support, FMU suffered. In November, I will be turning in the FMU Charter. This behavior has cost my District at least fifty members and at least one club. Additionally, Lion Gregg was blamed for this problem by many in my District when he was innocent.*

*Our state is the only Southeastern state to have not had an International President. PID Gene Spiess was the leading candidate for the position. That is until some PIDs went behind the scene to talk to the "powers" at LCI in an attempt to sabotage his campaign. They were very successful.*

*Moving on down the ladder, I was talking to a couple of potential Lions and was informed by them that because of "Facebook" postings by Lions they had no desire to be Lions in that club. "I don't want to be part of an organization that will have people who say things like that". I don't know what was said and who said these thing but I do know the two person that would not join, could have brought in at least ten members each.*

*In my club, we had a young Lion leave because the older Lions would laugh at his suggestions and he felt we were making fun of him. The old Lake City club lost fourteen (14) female Lions in one month. The reason, the unofficial leadership had them sit to the side at meetings. One told me that they felt they were there only there as a number.*

*I too have made mistakes. In an attempt to make a joke, I offended Lions Ann and Carl Blake. They and been Lions for a little over a year. Thank goodness they forgave me and remained Lions. Lion Carl has recruited at least ten new Lions. When Governor Carl Applewhite met with PID Randy Edwards and me, he asked me to let him know when he made mistakes or could do things better. Those of you that knew Carl know that he had a strong personality. With that in mind I told him I would, but I might have to be hard and sometimes disrespectful to him. He agreed. There were times that anyone who did not know what Carl*



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*had asked me to do would think I had overstepped my bounds. His wife Denise feels that way. She is still a Lion. I don't know if I caused anyone to leave. Both Carl and the Blake's are Pillars of Inspiration. You can read about them in next month's District newsletter.*

*I don't think anyone joined the Lions to do these things. We just don't think. I am asking all Lions to be careful of what we say and do.*

*DG Randy*