

SERVICE, REDISTRICTING AND MEMBERSHIP

Our International President, Joe Preston and wife Lion Joni were warmly greeted by a large group of South Carolina Lions this past weekend at our State Convention. They really "Strengthened the Pride" as our very special guest for the convention. If you were not there, you missed one of the best conventions I have attended. Lion Brian P'Pool, the South Strand Lions Club, and their support team did a great job and I commend them. I know that Convention Chair, Lion Melody Hair, is looking forward to planning next year's State Convention being held in Columbia.

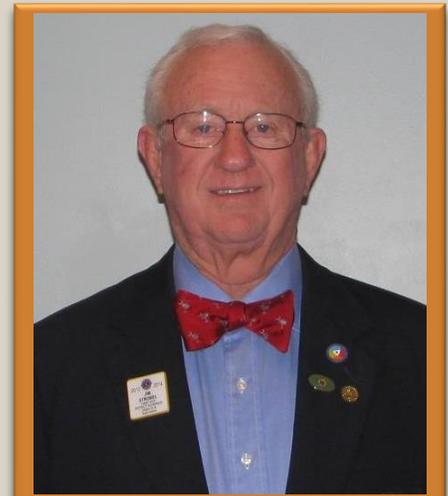
On March 13th, the Council voted and passed a proposal to redistrict from four districts to two by 2017. A "Special Called MD Convention", for the purpose of voting on this Proposal, is planned for 31 May (location and time to be announced). I know that this meeting is planned for a Sunday afternoon which will impact many of your plans, but please try to make special arrangements to attend this very important Convention. If your club has not received the information packet on the redistricting, please contact me at jstrobels@ussgs.com. It is important that every Lion be aware of the plan and have the opportunity to ask questions or get clarification. I am available to discuss and answer any questions or concerns. Contact me or your zone chair and we will schedule a meeting.

Each club will need to certify/credential the number of delegates allowed for your club. Every club must be in good standing at the time of the special convention.

We still have a problem in South Carolina with decreasing membership. I am encouraging every Lion to "Ask One" and then determine how to "Keep One". Our International President highlighted the issue of decreasing membership across the United States, so we are not alone with this problem. However, it is up to us to find new ways, develop new ideas and bring more people into our clubs. As I listened to the speakers at our convention, it brought home what we are all about. We have the opportunity to give sight to a blind person, hearing aids to a needy person, helping diabetics and help with disasters. We do that by having vibrant clubs with people that join for these purposes. At the convention, we had two young fellows, Lion Daniel Prohaska, Erskine College and Lion Brandon Johnson, East Tennessee State University, who held two sessions on how to attract young people to Lions. Here we have two young adults that are very involved in Lions, believing in our cause and want to see more young people in the organization. It was a joy to see their enthusiasm this weekend. Lion Daniel is ready to lend your club a hand in trying to generate the interest of young people and provide you new ideas. Let me know if you would like his help.

Never forget to support the South Carolina Lions Foundation, Lions International Foundation and Storm Eye Institute. They need our financial support in order to meet our motto – "WE SERVE".

DG Jim



Jim Strobel
District Governor, 32-B
2014-2015

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