

Looking to the Future for Our State

Lions, the year is moving along rapidly and we have a lot of exciting times over the next four months. It has been a busy eight months and we still have our State Convention and decisions that will have a long term effect on our organization.

We have just completed the last District Convention and now we will be preparing for the State Convention 27-29 March. Every District had a great convention and it was a pleasure for Lion Paula and me to be a part of them. I want to thank our Past International Director, Gene Spiess, Lion Rita Spiess, CC Joe Pitts and PCC Diane Pitts for their outstanding help during the District 32B convention and I feel that my fellow Governors agree with me. Their experience, recommendations and assistance made our guest speakers' visits to South Carolina memorable. I would be remiss, if I did not thank PCC George Jenkins for his valuable assistance during the planning for our convention. I continually called upon him for advice. Lion Paula and I were so thankful that these wonderful Lions were there ready to assist in any way. THANK YOU!

As Lions, we should be proud that the International President, Joe Preston, will be our guest at the State Convention. What is the President's theme for 2014-2015 – "Strengthen the Pride"! How can we Strengthen the Pride? One way is to show the President the strength of South Carolina Lions by honoring him with our presence at the Convention. Another way, which we should have been doing over the past eight months, is to Strengthen Our Clubs by "Asking One" and "Keeping One". I have said this many times during my club visits and in previous newsletters. We as officers in the District, Clubs, Committees, and Project Leaders must strive to be the best leaders we can be. When we take the oath, the pledge or accept any position, we are committing to lead to the best of our ability...no less! Let me say it again. We have committed ourselves to do a good job by being a good leader. I will be looking forward to seeing you at the convention. Lion Brian P'Pool and his team along with Council have planned an outstanding weekend with an agenda filled with unique events that are different from any convention in the past. There will be many breakout sessions to help you be better Lions. Get your registration sheets submitted, sign up for the events and sessions and have a great time.

I am ending this month's newsletter on a sad note. Unfortunately, the Districts of South Carolina have been suffering from loss of member over many years. We must now realize that it is time to consider redistricting. At our recent Council of Governors meeting, we decided to recommend to the Lions of South Carolina to redistrict from four Districts to two. You will be receiving more information on this recommendation at our cabinet meeting during the State Convention and by correspondence to those not attending the convention. This is a difficult decision, but it is time to face the fact that we have lost a significant number of members and clubs over the years. We have not replaced these failing clubs with new clubs and now each District is well below the recommended level of 1250. District 32B is currently at 819 according the Club Health Report for January 2015. Redistricting will ensure that we are able to exceed the 1250 level by a significant amount. In addition, it puts our State in position to qualify for promoting someone for International Director. Your voice needs to be heard and I encourage you to take an active part in this important decision.

As you see, we have a lot to accomplish over the next four months and now is the time for all Lions to show their strength.

DG Jim



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