

From Good To Great!

As we enter into this time of the year for our Multiple-District Conventions and the State Convention, let's not forget what brought us here. However well we think we are doing, we always strive to do better. There was a book I read a few years ago, entitled "From Good to Great" by Jim Collins. It was a #1 bestseller and when I think of SC Lions and especially District 32A I know we can be great too!

Part of my responsibilities as 2 Vice District Governor was to talk and meet with several clubs all over our district. But what was I going to say to them about going from Good to Great? I wanted to start by sharing words of encouragement and direction from our leaders, both ID Joe Preston's "Strengthening the Pride" or DG Gary Green's "ASK." What should I share? I reduced it down to 4 bullets: Ask1, Service (*with the ID's focus toward helping children*), Rebuilding Existing Clubs, and DG's "ASK" (*with an emphasis on the 'k' for Keeping all our members and their sponsors involved in district and state events*).

The fun part was the fellowship because each club has its' own personality. The hard part was scheduling time with these busy clubs! The clubs varied in so many different ways. I went from a 7AM breakfast meeting in Liberty with Lion Jean Thomas' club one day, to a dinner meeting with joint clubs = Gaffney (Lion Mike Vassey) and Cowpens (Lion Brian McCray) another night. And then the meetings just kept coming. For instance, John Clark's Dacusville Club meets in a beautiful 12 year old clubhouse that they built themselves. They had a good turnout, great fellowship & lots of laughs! Plus they even had 2 guests attend!! Lion Jackie Duckett, of the relatively new Greenville West End Club, filled her room with members and a guest. They showed energy and imagination by having sold "slightly used women's shoes" as part of a fundraiser. Lion Shirley Booker (Taylors) has done a fine job of mentoring the West End Club and their board and committee chairs are all working hard. Lion George Gatlin, of Pickens, gave me a nice surprise! In addition to having a nice NEW couple there as first time guests, he also asked me to induct a member into his club. It was my first time doing so in this position as 2VDG – and I want to do it some more. Furthermore, George took a picture of us and is going to submit it to the local paper for good news coverage and to spark an interest in growing his club! I felt honored that George asked me and very excited at the leadership and energy he was stirring up for his

club. The Williamston Club, under Lion Diane Rentz, meets once a month. Trying to set up a mutually convenient time had to be worked on. We did and it was worth it! They had good camaraderie and were actively looking for new as well as some younger members to sustain the various service projects they were providing within their community and grow their club. Last, but far from least, was our visit to Lion David Holmes' Slater-Marietta Club. They too have their own clubhouse – the Thomas Adkins Building, which sits on top of a hill. They had just received a donation of professional medical equipment from a retired ophthalmologist and installed it in its' own special room. They got it all, I mean everything, the professional chair, lens wheel gizmo (not a technical term 😊), plus an illuminated eye chart hanging on the wall – in its' own windowless room, where darkness is perfect for eyes to be examined!! How professional! With that gift they are now doing regular eye screenings with the school district and surrounding communities! How's that for going from good to great!

These exciting and fun times (meeting with, speaking to and listening to them) ran from early August to mid-November. But the best part of it all was what I learned about them and from them! They all wanted to serve more, and to grow more because of the positive impact they've made in their communities and in themselves. District 32A can go **from good to great**, as we strengthen the pride by asking others to join us in service and fellowship, to the good of our communities. That's a Great outcome! See you at the State Convention!

See you at State Convention,

Lion Wesley Corrothers, 2VDG 32A