



# DISTRICT 14-H NEWSLETTER

District Governor Rose Ellen Skodacek

**May 2009**

**“LIONISM BLOOMS THROUGH SERVICE”**



## **Greetings from Governor’s “DEN”**

Dear Lions, Lionesses and Leos,

It is hard to believe that there are only two months left of my term...but who is counting.

The last cabinet meeting is on June 7<sup>th</sup>. It will be causal affair; a Family Fun Day. Please bring your spouses, children and grandchildren. The plan is to have fun activities for all. The more people, the more activities.

The PA LIONS State Convention will be in Camp Hill at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel & Convention Center; 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, PA on May 14-17 hosted by District 14-T. Consider going. Visit our website for more information.

A reminder to all clubs that they need to report their officers for the year 2009/2010 to International by May 15<sup>th</sup> so that the new officers will receive important information. This can be done on line.

I would like to thank the Mayfield, South Scranton, Susquehanna and Taylor Clubs for their hospitality on my recent club visits. A special “Congratulations” goes out to PDG Leonard Kello for receiving a progressive Melvin Jones Fellow award.

Yours in Lionism,  
DG Rose Ellen  
[skodacekr@mvsd.us](mailto:skodacekr@mvsd.us)

## **Greetings from your Vice District Governor**

We have had a few nice days with temperatures in the 70s and 80s. I hope you were able to get outside and enjoy them. Even though we look forward to summer, there will be complaints about too much heat and mowing the lawn.

Rose and I visited three clubs this week, Taylor, South Scranton, and Susquehanna. The visit to Susquehanna was extra special since PDG Len Kello was awarded a progressive Melvin Jones award. Len was District Governor in 1969-1970. It is a great honor to be awarded one by your club, but more than one is really outstanding. Past International President Joe Wroblewski and his wife were on hand to present the award to Len. It was my great pleasure to be introduced to them. Also attending were Past Council Chairman Richard

Yurish and his wife. A good time was had by all.

Again, I would like to remind you of Beacon Lodge and their need for funds to complete the sewer project. Don't forget Beacon Lodge Appreciation Day is July 19, 2009.

In closing, I remind you of the June Cabinet meeting at Jefferson Township. I am sure Rose has more information on the meeting and menu.

I hope you all have a very pleasant summer.

VDG Barry

## **DISTRICT HAPPENINGS**

Sight & Hearing Meeting – May 21<sup>st</sup> at the American Legion, 2929 Birney Ave, Scranton (Minooka) at 7:00 PM.

## **CLUB HAPPENINGS**

The South Scranton Lions Club will hold a Pasta Dinner on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Dante Club, 1916 Prospect Ave, Scranton from 4PM TO 7PM. Adults: \$8.50, Children under 6: \$4.00. Dine-in or Take-out.



### *In Remembrance*

Lion Larry Young – Abington Club

*To their loved ones, we sincerely give our heartfelt sympathy. We pray that they may realize every comfort and hope their faith will bring them peace in this time sorrow.*

To place items of interest in future newsletters send them to: skodacekr@mvsd.us or call 570-383-2125 by the 20th of the month.

## **Message from Our International President**

Dear Lions,

Never underestimate a Lion. I am sure that you believe that the Lions in your district are good people and know the many wonderful things they have accomplished over the years. But these are difficult days and they call for more than good intentions and cheerfully maintaining the status quo. Much more.

Lions Clubs around the world are finding it necessary to completely reinvent themselves to meet the new and urgent needs that the unsteady economy is creating in their communities. Wherever you see the need, please do not hesitate to present clubs with this difficult challenge. Lions can do it – with your help.

What is the best way to help clubs rediscover their passion for service to the community? You might start by remembering the reasons why you first became a Lion and trusting that this passion is also present in your fellow Lions.

While it is important that we have fun and enjoy the camaraderie of our clubs, you should remind clubs that our fundamental reason for existence is a serious one. Lions are a crucial part of our communities' wellbeing in the best of times. However, I can think of no situation more than the present that clearly calls upon Lions to step-up and put the "We Serve" spirit into action. Remind clubs of this sobering responsibility and have faith that this spirit still lives in every Lion in every club in your district.

Rekindling our members' passion for service and keeping them actively involved in meaningful service projects is the best way to help our communities meet their most pressing needs and to keep membership levels at their highest in years, but another way is through the formation of new clubs. As budgets are cut local governments, schools, hospitals, libraries and other institutions are eliminating programs that not only provided needed services but also gave concerned volunteers a way to have an impact on their communities. The needs met by these programs will not go away because the funding has. Neither will the concern of the people who care about them. If we don't meet the need for service opportunities of these motivated individuals – just as we serve the needs of our current members – they will surely find another avenue to pursue their goals.

Keeping in mind that the active [involvement of current members](#) is our number one resource, new clubs with special interests consisting of people with special talents can be formed around the nucleus of these soon-to-be-neglected needs. You, as district governor have the key role in making this happen.

Local government officials such as mayors, town councils, county commissioners and others will be invaluable partners in this effort. They know where these emerging needs will be created. It is likely that they also know the people most concerned about these issues. Make the best possible use of these officials as an information source and by all means invite them to become involved. In the current climate they too may be seeking new ways in which to serve.

[Forming new clubs](#) in your district is no longer solely about meeting the goals we set last July in Bangkok. It is about stepping in to fill the service gaps in communities that may be in real peril. Please put your best effort into the drive to form new clubs.

Of course our association is not immune from the effects of economic turmoil and it is the responsibility of all Lion leaders to reduce costs wherever possible.

Fortunately, what is economical is also “green” and coincides with Lions Clubs International's longstanding interest in protecting our environment.

I wish you every success in meeting the emerging needs of the communities you serve and thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,  
President Al  
The International Association of Lions Clubs

## FAST FACTS ABOUT LIONS

**Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization:** We have 1.3 million members [in 45,000 clubs](#) worldwide.

**Lions are everywhere:** We're active in more than [200 countries and geographic areas](#).

**Lions have a dynamic history:** We are best known for fighting blindness – it's part of [our history](#) as well as our work today. But we also volunteer for many different kinds of projects – including disaster relief – across many borders.

**Lions serve youth:** Our community projects often [support local children and schools](#) with new programs and resources. Internationally, we offer many programs, including our popular [Peace Poster Contest](#).

**Lions award grants:** Since 1968, the [Lions Clubs International Foundation \(LCIF\)](#) has awarded \$610 million in grants to support Lions projects around the world. LCIF was also ranked the number one nongovernmental organization in a 2007 study by *The Financial Times*.

**Lions are active:** Our motto is "We Serve."