



**January**

***District Governor's Message***



**Time to Spring into Action**

The cold and wintry weather has shown itself to be very persistent and has brought us the white overlay of picture without a subject. Some say that this is their favorite time of year and others like the diversity but are prepared for a change to the warmer climate and fairer weather.

As for me I like the diversity of the seasons with the exception that I would prefer a more spring and fall and less of the summer and winter. Such as it is, it is time to begin to plan for more growth to your club. The spring brings with it an opportunity to grow your club. This is the time to plan on visiting the District Convention and even plan to attend the first State Convention.

Historically the spring will bring fund raisers that often sustain the club through the summer months and into the fall of the year.

Vice District Governors, Richard Warner and Tharran Gaines, have done a great job in visiting the clubs around the District and we have had some discussion on some of the successes in clubs that show a growth potential. Briefly evaluating the clubs we see that those clubs that are consistent in the day and time of their meeting are more likely to succeed. The clubs that have their meetings in conjunction with a meal are more successful. It is also evident that those clubs that actively pursue the fun of having a Tail Twister at their meetings generate a feeling of fellowship that make for good fun during the meeting.

An active club develops the leaders necessary to execute funds which go to support those in the community. Each club is different in the causes that they support and the way they support them.

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**We all need to strive in the coming months to increase our numbers, delegate good leadership and to promote Lions activities to each of our communities.**

**The spring gives us new opportunities to bring in speakers from the chairman that lead us in our District Fund raising. Many of our clubs donate to LCIF but never request a presentation from our Chairman IPDG George Spengler. The same can be said for the Chairpersons on Leader Dog, World Services for the Blind, Diabetes, Saving Sight, and Lions Hearing and on goes the list. These are the very essence of what Lions Clubs are about along with youth activities and community support.**

**We have a great organization that each of us should be very proud. We are coming into a time of the year that offers great opportunity so let's use that opportunity to grow our numbers and increase our community recognition.**

**Come On Spring!**

**DG Lion Roger Unruh**

### ***A Special "Thank you"***

***To my Lions Club "Family" –***

***Many, many thanks for your outpouring of support for my family as we continue with Chris's fight with cancer. It is an ugly disease, but at the same time it has shown us the best in ourselves and others. Thank you for the hugs, cards, prayers and donations, all of which are so graciously appreciated. As we begin this new year, my wish for you is good friends and good health!***

***Lion Tina Anderson***

**Did you know that Lions helped eliminate River Blindness in Ecuador?**

## **A Message from our 1st Vice District Governor**

**Dear Fellow Lions and Friends;**

**The year of 2013 is now history and we can only wish now, that we had done something in our clubs to help with Membership and helping others that need our help. I have learned in my DG training that we never want to put off doing things because before you realize it, the year has passed and 'John' the local citizen has gone and joined another club. (I am not allowed to put the name of club on paper.)**

**Communication is still our best bet of getting new members; think about having a community supper and each lion member in the club invite a fellow citizen and his family to this supper. We all like to eat and spread the good news about what is going on in the neighborhood.**

**Another thing that we let slip by us is not having our PR person put what we accomplish each month in the paper. This is one of our biggest assets that is free. Also remember that there is money to be had for advertising for our club and LCIF.**

**I recently had the opportunity to attend DG classes in Dallas/Fort Worth airport for two days with 35 other 1<sup>st</sup> VDG from five states, Missouri, Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas. In this meeting we all confirmed that our districts were going down in memberships and our participation in what each club was doing for our service projects. Our top priority was to give better training to our Zone Chairpersons so they can follow up better out in the districts. This training will be given with the help of LCI and the DG Team.**

**This coming year we will have a DG team that consists of" DG, 1<sup>st</sup> VDG, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG, Treasurer, Secretary, GLT, GMT and Zone Chairpersons." So fellow Lions we need your help in getting a Zone chairperson in all five Regions or all ten Zones. Don't be bashful either! There is money to be used for training and if we have too, we can take the training to the Regions.**

**We are still looking for someone to want to be a District Governor, they need to have a nomination in place by the March district convention. If you need info about this, call a PDG and they will help you get all the answers.**

**One last thing and that is; "are you coming to the Mid-Winter Form that is being held in Branson, MO. on February 7-8 2014." It is being held at the "Chateau on the Lake", 415 N State Hwy265, Branson, Mo. 65616.**

**Please make sure that all our members get to read this paper, it is our only way of getting the word out to everyone about what is going on in this district.**

**THAT'S ALL FOLKS for this trip! May God Bless.**

**1<sup>st</sup> VDG Richard Warner**

## *Calendar of Events*

### 2014

January	25	Council of Governor’s Meeting, Sedalia
January	25	Faucett & St. Joe Eastside Soup & Chili Supper
February	1	Cosby Lions Pancakes & Sausage; 8 am to 1:30 pm
February	3	Clarksdale Lions 10 Point Pitch Tournament; 7pm
February	7 & 8	Missouri Lions Mid Winter Forum, Chateau on the Lake, Branson
February	22	Savannah Lions Club Chili/Soup Supper and Bingo, American Legion Building 501 Price Ave., Savannah, 5:00 P.M. Supper, Bingo starts at 6:00 P.M.
February	28	Retirement Benefit for Dr. Ron Walkenbach (see page 9)
March	3	Clarksdale Lions 10 Point Pitch Tournament; 7pm
March	14 & 15	District 26-M4 District Convention; Chillicothe
March	17,18,20,21	Hamilton Lions Club 5th & 6th Grade Basketball Tournament
April	24	Council of Governor’s Meeting, Sedalia
April	25-27	Missouri Lions State Convention, Sedalia
April	26	Clarksdale Lions Annual Consignment Sale 9am
May	17	4th Cabinet meeting, District M4; St. Joseph
July	4—8	Lions International Convention, Toronto, ON, Canada

**District 26-M4 Website: [www.lions26m4.org](http://www.lions26m4.org)**



Please send all notices and newsletter articles to:

Lion Ann Anderson — [Anderson@centurytel.net](mailto:Anderson@centurytel.net)

If your email is incorrect in the directory or if it changes during the year, please notify as soon as possible. Thank you!

## A Message from the 2nd Vice District Governor

Are we having fun yet?

As I've made club visitations over the past couple months, I've had the pleasure of meeting a number of Lions in the district and have experienced some wonderful hospitality. But there's one thing that has come to my attention. That is that very few of the clubs I've been to have or use the services of a tail twister. I realize that a lot of clubs are small and too often, every member already has a job to do.

However, I also know that every club I've been to is wondering how they can attract new members or more young members. I may be wrong, but I think one way we can do that is make meetings more fun. In my own club, we enjoy sitting around socializing, while we're sharing dinner. Then we conduct our business and finish by turning the tail twister loose. And we give him as much grief as he gives us.

While there's little training these days for tail twisters, there was a valuable session held at the U.S.A./Canada forum this past fall. According to the presenter, some may think the role of the tail twister is to collect fines to add to the administrative fund. But the real role of the tail twister should always be to generate fun and prevent meetings from becoming boring. Some of the obvious fines can be for arriving late (*but don't discourage people from attending*) or having to leave early; not wearing your vest, a Lions pin, and so on; wearing a tie to the meeting; having your name or photo in the newspaper; interrupting someone, etc.

During the summer, if there are more members wearing jeans or slacks than are wearing shorts, the ones wearing shorts are fined and vice versa. We used to have a highway patrolman in the club who would occasionally attend the meeting in uniform. His answer, upon being fined for not having his vest or pin was, "My fines are bigger than your fines."

As a member of our club, you should also expect to pay a penny per year at the meeting closest to your birthday. Try to fine each member at least once every two to three meetings, even if you have to come up with some silly reason. No sense overlooking anyone – they may feel left out. Find a fun container to use for collection of funds.

As part of the Governor/Vice Governors team, we want to do everything we can to help you recruit and retain members. In the meantime, see what you can do to make meetings fun for everyone ... especially prospective members who visit. They may just decide to join. And if you want a copy of the proceedings from the tail twister training, just let me know.

Tharran Gaines

2nd Vice District Governor

## **To all club presidents and Lions members:**

### **Club donations to LCIF update through 12/31/2013**

It is the responsibility of every club in our district to support our international foundation (LCIF). I encourage every club to include donations to our foundation in your yearly budget. Last year our district donated a total of \$20,145.64 from 19 clubs. That is about 30% of the clubs. Approximately 40% of that amount was donated by one club.

I have set a goal of \$25,000.00 for this year, 2013-14, a modest increase. In order for us to make this goal it will require each club which donated last year to repeat their contribution plus all other clubs who did not contribute to donate at least \$100.00 each. This is a big order but with all of us working together, we can make this happen. Through Dec.31, 2013 we have donated a total of \$3258.09.

Thanks to the following clubs which have donated thus far: Albany, Graham, Grant City, Green City, Hamilton, Keytesville, Maryville Host, Maryville Pride, Salisbury and Smithville. Hopefully we will see a lot more clubs listed on my next report.

Contributions should be made directly to LCIF with the request that it be credited to your club MJF account or sent to me to be forwarded to LCIF and credited to the district MJF account. This account is used by the district to award MJF awards to retiring DG's and when available, recognition to other deserving district members. Your club can also bring your contribution check to the District Convention for the parade of checks.

If you have any questions regarding contributions or how to donate, call me or email me for answers.

District LCIF Chair,

IPDG George Spengler

Email: [gspengler@kc.rr.com](mailto:gspengler@kc.rr.com)

Phone: 816-532-6227

**God can't give us peace and happiness apart from  
Himself because there is no such thing. C.S. Lewis**



# Saving Sight

Celebrating 35 Years of Vision

You are invited to the retirement party of Dr. Ronald Walkenbach. We will celebrate his achievements in sight preservation and restoration and wish him a fulfilling retirement.

The event will take place on Friday, February 28, 2014 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Kansas City – International Airport (7640 Northwest Tiffany Springs Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64153).

Tickets for the event will be \$75 per person, with a majority of the proceeds benefitting a legacy program to be established in Dr. Walkenbach's name. The legacy program will advance innovation in corneal transplantation through collaborative research projects and publications.

Attendees will have their choice of dinner entrée: roasted sirloin, stuffed chicken, grilled salmon, or a vegetarian option. Attire is business casual. Out-of-town guests can reserve a room at the Embassy Suites for \$99/night by referencing Saving Sight at the time of reservation.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by Friday, February 14, 2014. You can purchase your tickets online at [www.saving-sight.eventbrite.com](http://www.saving-sight.eventbrite.com). If you cannot attend but would like to contribute to Dr. Walkenbach's legacy program, you can instead make a donation at [www.saving-sight.eventbrite.com](http://www.saving-sight.eventbrite.com) or mail a check to Saving Sight, 404 Portland St., Columbia, MO 65201 and note "Walkenbach" on the memo line.

If you have any questions, please contact [pr@saving-sight.org](mailto:pr@saving-sight.org) or call 800-283-1982.



## Lions Clubs International

### Webinar Opportunity: Lionism as a Past District Governor

Lionism as a Past District Governor is an honor which offers both challenges and opportunities. In this webinar we will explore the characteristics and qualities of a Past District Governor, the unique challenges of Lionism as a Past District Governor, and possible roles a Past District Governor could pursue that are both personally satisfying and that furthers the mission and goals of LCI.

Sign up today at: [LCI Webinars Registration](#).

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THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
LIONS CLUBS

*(Lions Clubs International)*

***Lion Roger Unruh***

**District Governor  
District 26-M4 2013-2014  
13448 Glena Drive  
St. Joseph, MO 64506**

