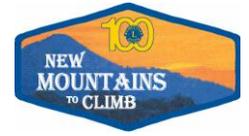




District Governor's Quarterly Update



Governor's Travels

Well it's hard to imagine that the first quarter of this current Lions year is over already! I guess time really does fly when you're having fun.

It has been both exciting and gratifying to travel and meet with so many dedicated Lions. My Governor's journey began with the International Convention in Fukuoka, Japan. It was amazing to meet Lions from all over the world who share the same devotion to service. While it was clearly evident that we all might do things differently, we all share the same passion for Lionism. It was also a great opportunity for the Governors of MD"A" to get to know each other better, form a bond and support each other as we help our districts to do their amazing work.

Lion Betty's and my experience in Japan was so wonderful. The people were warm and friendly. We arranged two day tours by local guides who gave us special insights into the Japanese culture. One of our guides, Asako, sent me an email which I have copied following this message. It is rather eye opening.

But it wasn't all fun and games. Four full days were spent in workshops designed to hone our skills and prepare us for district leadership. We quickly learned that the training we receive in our individual districts as well as our multiple district is first class. The Canadian governors were knowledgeable and often took the lead in discussion and the sharing of information and ideas. I encourage all Lions to take advantage of the training opportunities we provide. It pays off both personally as well as at the club and district level.

Once back in Canada (long flight!) the whirlwind began: Ontario York Region Heritage Lions Gala on July 17, budget meeting on July 20, LCCKF meetings on July 23, Cabinet Meeting August 20....and if you're interested, let me regale you with the saga of trying to arrange new signing authorities with the bank!

International President Bob Corlew visited Toronto in the Centennial Bus and the Governors of MD"A" had dinner with him and Lion Diane on September 28 and then went to the Lions Foundation of Canada breeding centre and Memorial Forest in Breslau on September 29.

International President Corlew's theme is "New Mountains to Climb". The mountains are metaphors for the challenges we continue to face in terms of leadership, membership and service. We are encouraged to continue to aim higher in all areas so that we can provide needed service. There is no doubt that we offer excellent leadership opportunities and amazing service and support. Membership continues to have its challenges...more later.

Now we're into Zone Meetings and club visitations and I am so proud to hear all the great things going on in A16. I would be remiss if I did not congratulate our Zone and Region Chairpersons on the leadership they are providing to the district. Last year we went through the exercise of reorganizing our district so that it could be more efficient and provide room for growth. Now we implement the plan and I ask that you support your Region and Zone Chairpersons who are charged with this responsibility.

I've included some information which I hope will be of value to you as you progress through this Lions year. As always, if there are any questions or concerns, we have a great team to assist you.

Cheers and take care.



Asako's Message(Unedited)

Hi

I had a great time showing you around my hometown.
I really appreciate your patience.
And thank you very much for the handkerchief and the coin case.
My husband was in Ottawa university for a year.
He LOVES Canada.
He also said thank YOU!

You must be very tired today.
Please take a good rest and prepare for tomorrow.
I'll go to school tomorrow and tell my students how wonderful Canadian people are.
I was very impressed with your volunteer work you are doing in your country.

From my stay in the US for a year when I was 19 as an exchange student and the career as a guide for 13 years,
I always feel that we are way behind from Christian nations when it comes to volunteer work.
I am always impressed with the volunteer spirits in Christian nations.
Japan is more of Buddhist and Shintoist nation,
and we focus more on disciplining ourselves and getting rid of our desires to get enlightenment than on taking care of others.

Volunteer work is not strongly rooted in Japan yet.
The history of the custome is still young here.
It's been coming in and getting stronger since Kobe earthquake in 1995,
but we still have a lot to learn from your culture.

District Governor's Team

The team consists of The District Governor, 1st VDG Tim Cheung, 2nd VDG JC Lagrange, GLT Coordinator Larry Bell and GMT Coordinator Brian Moore. The team meets approximately every six weeks to do a check on how things are progressing and to see what action(s) have to be taken in order to achieve our goals. A16 is really fortunate to have these dedicated leaders. The future looks great!

By The Numbers – Membership

Current Total as of October 10 – 1242

Added members this year – 43

Dropped members this year – 64

WELCOME – ANGUS GLEN LIONS CLUB!



Some shots from Fukuoka



International President's Visit



Dinner at the Hilton...forgive the bright tie!



The Bus Arrives!

Planting a tree in the Memorial Forest



Two puppies going out to foster homes that day.



International President Corlew and Lion Diane holding the sign for the tree.

Our Membership Challenge

District A16 has always been great at adding members to our Lions Family. Indeed, last year we were the best in Canada (Well done, IPDG Susan). The down side is that we still are not able to retain the membership levels we accomplish, as shown by the numbers above. Now is the time when we should be looking closely at those members who just don't seem to be engaged so that we can take action and keep them as active members of the club.

For years we have been fixated on attaining the magic number 1250, the minimum number of Lions required to be a viable district. Let's abandon that number and shoot for 1300 as our minimum. That would mean the addition of another 58 members this year.... A really achievable goal! We need to offer solid community members the opportunity to make a difference in their community and have fun while doing it. At the same time we need to retain members so that our net increase is a positive one.

Last year we asked that, if members needed to be dropped, we do it in July. This strategy would help the Governor achieve membership increase goals because the dreaded "June drops" would not come in to play. Additionally, it would help the incoming Governor adjust his/her goals accordingly. This worked, even though we did drop 24 in June. We will be asking members to vote on a constitutional amendment to allow A16 dues to be levied based on membership numbers as of August 1st as opposed to the present June 30.

Each year the District Governor Elect is asked to set leadership and membership goals for their year. This process begins in late fall and carries into the new year to be completed and approved by the end of March. It's much like setting a budget...best intentions. Here's how it has worked out so far:

Dropped Members Prediction

Quarter	My Goal	Actual	Result?
July – September	10	64	Missed that by a mile!
October – December	30		
January – March	20		
April to June	30		

So it looks like we can make up ground in the second quarter. That would be awesome.

Recruitment Prediction

Quarter	My Goal	Actual	Result?
July – September	20	43	Thanks to you and the formation of a new club.
October – December	30		
January – March	40		
April – June	30		

If we all work hard, we can achieve these growth results and once again be the best in Canada. That would make me soooooo happy and proud. Think of the increased service we can provide! It's just a little over one new member per club.

I set a goal to increase the number of women added to our membership. Of the 43 new members, 20 are women...pretty good ratio. Great work, all.

I planned no new clubs but would, along with 1st VDG Tim, explore possible locations and begin the process of surveying locations. Thanks to the efforts of Lion Tim and others, we have a new club. We will be asking Zones to identify possible locations where we could form new clubs without adversely affecting existing ones.

I planned for one new Leo Club and we have some promising outlooks here.

I'll provide updates on the second quarter in early January.

Huge thanks to all the clubs and especially our Global Membership Team.



First Official Meeting of the
Newly Chartered Angus
Glen Lions Club

Leadership Opportunities

There are so many opportunities in A16 for Lions to increase their skills. This is so important if we are to continue to produce quality leaders at every level. Our Global leadership Team offers hands on training and can let you know of various Lions Clubs International Institutes as well as webinars and other on-line course offerings. In May we offered training to incoming club officers (Presidents/Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Membership Chairs).

Here's a quick reminder of announced workshops and a look at upcoming opportunities:

Saturday October 29 – 10:00 am – 12 noon – Sunderland – Club officer Refresher plus Membership Orientation (Open to all members).

Saturday October 29 – 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Social Media Workshop –All you ever wanted to know about using social media to promote your club and get new members.

November 29 –Everything You Wanted to Know About Being a Zone Chair

November 30 – Tail Twister Workshop

November 30 – Orientation Seminar –Open to all....You'd be surprised what you don't know

January 30 – Certified Guiding Lion Workshop

January 30 – Membership Part II

Please look for announcements of these excellent opportunities. Contact info for GMT and GLT are on the website and in the directory.

Last May we conducted a Committee Chair Workshop which provided our committee chairs to meet and look at ways in which they could connect more efficiently with the clubs. Most often clubs do not make use of this valuable resource. Please consider looking at the committees we have and invite a committee chair to be a speaker at one of your meetings. It will be a win win for sure.

Lions Helping Lions

Partnerships with other Lions Clubs can be very rewarding. It creates bonds of friendship, allows for learning from each other and showcases to the public what a vibrant organization we are. At the Uxbridge Fall Fair, the Uxbridge Lions needed help to run their Food Booth on a really busy weekend. What was the response? 14 Lions from 7 different clubs from Haliburton to Markham and Aurora to Port Perry came to help. Well done, my fellow Lions!



Governor's Newsletter

I am sorry to have to report that our editor, Lion Mark Carrington, has been dealing with some health issues and will not be able to carry on with his portfolio. I am happy to say that Lion Mark is on the road to recovery and we wish him well. Lion Mark's work with the newsletter was exemplary and we thank him for all his efforts.

Many thanks go to Lions Micheline and Rick Lush who have offered to produce the Governor's Newsletter. They ask for your help. Please submit articles, pictures etc. to the following email address:

governornews@lionsa16.com.

We'll try to have the first edition out before Christmas.

District A16 Convention – April 28,29,30.

Centennial Service Challenge – 2015-2016

You have probably heard by now that the Oshawa West Lions (host club) have been forced to change the venue of the convention. This is because the original hotel was unable to complete renovations in time. Huge thanks to the Oshawa West Lions for being flexible and for being able to still get the job done. Let's all make a huge effort to support them by attending the whole convention. Friday night warm up looks like it will be a hoot! Get your registration in early!

The banner patches have arrived and I will be proudly distributing them at our first round of Joint Zone meetings.

28 clubs will be receiving patches and 5 will be receiving Legacy patches ...well done!

Mark Your Calendars!

October 15 – District A16 Service Action Day – If you haven't contacted me about your plans, please do so immediately!

October 22 – Lions Clubs Camp Kirk Closeup

November 4 – Joint Zone 45 in Sharon

November 12 – Angus Glen Charter Night

November 12 – Cabinet Meeting in Newmarket – all Lions are invited to observe

December 5 - Joint Zone 52 in Dunsford

December 6 – Joint Zone 18 in Maple

December 7 – Joint Zone 33 in Blackstock

*Act as if what you do makes a
difference. It does.*

William James



Governor's Project
Music Therapy Program – Hospital for Sick Children



Music can heal wounds which medicine cannot touch.

Dabasish Mridha

The Music Therapy program at Sick Kids was launched in 1999. The program is funded entirely through philanthropy. Research has shown that music therapy can bring psychological benefits, alleviate feelings of grief and fear, and may even speed up recovery. Music therapists are trained to use the power of music to connect with patients and families and provide outlets for expressions of feelings.

Music has been a large part of my life since early childhood and continues to be so to this day. Several members of my family (including me) have benefitted from the care received at Sick Kids, so it seemed a perfect fit to make this fabulous program my Governor's Project. Take the time to research this program on-line and you will discover examples of the great healing effect music therapy has on children in need of support as they struggle through adversity.

To raise funds for my project I commissioned a local Haliburton sculpture, Kim Warne, to create the work of art pictured below. I have titled it "Lions' Pride". The stone is a soapstone from South America. Through the process of sandblasting, Kim has depicted a male and female lion on an African plain. As I journey throughout the District, "Lions' Pride" will accompany me so that you can see this wonderful piece of artwork and you'll have the opportunity to purchase tickets for a draw to be made at the District A-16 Convention in April 2017. Your support will be much appreciated.

Where words fail, music speaks.

Hans Christian Anderson

