



Reflections & Ruminations From Ralph-DG



February, 2010

*Time is
Too Slow for those who Wait,
Too Swift for those who Fear,
Too Long for those who Grieve,
Too Short for those who Rejoice;
But for those who Love,
Time is not.*

Fellow Lions:

At some point during this year the various tenets expressed in the above poem by Henry Van Dyke have been prominently featured in my thinking. At this particular *time* the clock seems to be spinning wildly as we "rejoice" in the various conventions associated with winding down another Lionistic year. We have already attending two District Conventions, 12-L and 12-S, with three left, ours being the last one on March 12-13 at Henry Horton State Park.

I hope you are planning on attending our convention this year. Each year at the District Convention the roll is taken of the representatives from the clubs. I don't mind telling you that is very disconcerting when club after club is called and no response is heard. I would really like to have at least one representative from every club in our district at this year's convention. The \$40.00 registration fee includes the convention registration, the reception and entertainment Friday night featuring the **Tennessee School for the Blind Chorus**, access to the hospitality room, the Saturday presentations on *Understanding Those We Serve*, the luncheon, and the opportunity to hear a presentation by Past International President Jim Ervin. Will you please, Please, PLEASE make a special effort to humor this old man and attend? You will be glad you did! You can find a downloadable registration form and other information at <http://12ilions.com/communications.htm>.

Your convention reservation form should be sent to PDG Patsy Milom (address is on the form) but Room Reservations should be made directly with Henry Horton Inn at 1-800-250-8612 or 931-364-2222. Ask for Lions rate associated with Group Code 2489 which is \$65 plus tax per night. Room reservations should be made by March 5th, 2010.

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE:

1. Two amendments to the MD-12 Constitution and By-Laws will be presented for action at the State Convention. I believe representatives from every club is included on my e-mail list. Please make sure that the these proposals are circulated freely and openly in your clubs.

At the Fall meeting of the Council of Governors much conversation was had relative to how MD-12 might manage the ever-increasing costs associated with LCI activities. It was decided to ask the Long Range Planning Committee to look into the feasibility of altering the MD-12 Constitution to provide a reduction in the number of LCI Committee members who are reimbursed for their travel/expense to the International Convention. PID Allen Broughton, Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee, succinctly stated the rationale for the request thusly, "With the shift in membership to other countries,

more and more of the International Conventions will be held off shore. This has and will likely increase the financial burden of small Multiple Districts such as Tennessee funding 5 members of the International Convention Committee to attend." Attached you will find a copy of the proposed change in the Constitution & By-Laws that reduces the number of paid individuals or entities on the International Convention Committee from five (5) to (1).

A second proposed amendment has to do with the requirements for serving on the State Trading Pin Committee. It is self-explanatory and is as follows:

Article V, Section 6, State Trading pin Committee, Paragraph A. Appointment: The members of this Committee may be any Lion in good standing and who has attended at least one (Delete) International Convention within the last 10 years (insert in its place) State Convention within the last five years. Each District Governor shall appoint one member as soon as possible ---(no further change) to this Par A.

2. The 92nd Annual Tennessee Lions State Convention will be held at the Riverview Inn in Clarksville, TN on May 21-22, 2010. A copy of the registration form can be found at <http://12ilions.com/communications.htm>. Make the checks/money order payable to Lions State Convention 2010 and mail along with the completed registration form to: PCC Dan Artis, 113 N. Church St., Waverly, TN 37185. Room reservations should be made directly with the Riverview Inn, 50 College St., Clarksville, at 877-487-4837. Mention "Lions State Convention" for the group rate of \$79.00 per night plus tax. Cutoff for group rate is May 1, 2010. Registration for the Hospitality Book cutoff date is May 1st, 2010 . Since our district is hosting the State Convention this year, District 12-I should be well represented. I hope to see many of you there!!!

3. If you have not already sent in your White Cane Fund donation for the year, the district convention will present you with an excellent opportunity to do so. Make your checks out to: District 12-I White Cane Fund. We would like to have every club participate in the White Cane Fund which supports 8 different worthwhile agencies serving persons who are blind and deaf. To learn more about those agencies, go to <http://12ilions.com/districtprojects.htm>.

4. **DIRECTORIES:** On February 8th. I sent out an E-mail message regarding the necessity of getting information to me for inclusion in the 2010-11 MD Directory. While I don't want to bore you with redundancy, I do want to emphasize the point; therefore, I am including the contents of that e-mail in this newsletter.

"In order that the 2010-2011 Multi-District (MD) Directories can be printed and available for distribution at the District Organizational Meetings in July, it is essential that the information to be included be submitted to me no later than March 15, 2010. Therefore, your clubs should determine who your officers will be for the 2010-2011 Lionistic Year by March 1st and the names submitted to me on or before March 15, 2010 - sooner, if possible. This will give me only a couple of weeks to compile all the data and get it to the printers by March 31. I need the following information on the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair from each club:

Club Name; Club Officer; Name; Spouse's Name; Address; Home Phone; Work Phone; Cell Phone; E-mail Address.

In addition, I need the name and address of the place where the club meets and the day(s) of the week and times of the meetings.

VERY IMPORTANT: The requested information you send to me for inclusion in the Multi-District Directory **will not take the place of filing the information with Lions Clubs International!!!** Secretaries will still need to file the new officer information, either electronically or on the printed PU-101 Form, with LCI. **PLEASE NOTE:** You have to file this information every year even if you have the same officers for the next Lionistic year!! If you do not file the information with LCI, the passwords that are

needed to access the LCI website and electronically file the monthly membership reports (MMR) cannot not be issued!! Also, Secretaries, please update the address information with LCI on a regular basis. We use that information to print labels to mail out the newsletter.

If you do not send the information to me, it cannot be included in the MD Directory, so please, Please, PLEASE get the information to me. I want every club's information to be correct for next year!!"

5. **Elvis Pins:** Did you get a chance to purchase one of the "shakin' Elvis pins" that were sold in conjunction with the USA/Canada Forum last fall? If not, don't fret. You will have another chance. The pins that were not sold at the Forum have been donated to MD-12 and will be equally between the 5 districts with a sale value of \$2,950 per district. The caveat is that the pins must go to a 501 (c) (3) Federal Income Tax Exempt agency. I have decided to divide the pins allocated to District 12-I between Tennessee Lions Charities and Ed Lindsey Industries for the Blind.

6. **Have you sold any Sponsorships for the MD Directory?** If not, you still have a little time, but not much. As has been mentioned in several previous communiqués, as an effort to help defray the ever-increasing cost of publishing the MD-12 Directory, the Council of Governors decided to sell sponsorship advertisements in the 2010-2011 MD-12 Directory. The cost of advertisements ranges from \$250 for ¼ page to \$800 for the inside front and back covers. It would be great for Lions who own businesses to advertise in the directory. This would also be an excellent way to honor Lions in your club who have distinguished themselves in some way. Also, it would be an excellent way to memorialize a departed Lion. I have asked PDG Keith Lawrence to coordinate the sale of sponsorships for our district. His contact information is: Telephone: (H) 615-373-5378, (C) 615-804-5379; E-mail: klawrence12ilions@comcast.net; Mailing Address: 5615 Green Apple Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027. **The Deadline for getting information to PDG Keith is April 1.**

7. **Have you checked out the State Lions Website?** If not, check it out at <http://tennesseelions.org/> or <http://tennesseelions.net>. The website has a wealth of information including protected access to a "Members Area" where you can find an electronic copy of the MD-12 Directory. In order to access the protected area, you will need to enter the username "lion" [case sensitive] and the password "md1209" [case sensitive]. From the state website you can find links to all the district websites.

8. **Club Activities:** You are invited to go to <http://12ilions.com/clubactivities.htm> and view newly posted flyers advertising activities for the Dickson and the Waverly Clubs.

Until next time, please know that your efforts and good works ARE making a positive difference in the lives of those in need!!

Thank you for SERVING!!

DG Ralph