



Reflections & Ruminations From Ralph-DG



March, 2010

Fellow Lions:

It was great seeing many of you at the District 12-I Convention at Henry Horton State Park. I want to thank those of you who responded to my frequent (some would say ad nauseam) encouragements to attend. While we did not reach the goal to have at least one representative from each club, we still had a great turnout.

And what a convention it was! The theme for this year's convention was *Understanding Those We Serve* and things got off to an inspiring start Friday evening with the Tennessee School for the Blind Chorus providing the entertainment. On Saturday we began with a presentation on how Assistive Technology can benefit blind persons followed by a session on teaching blind persons how to travel independently. These sessions were followed by a presentation by a deaf/blind student from the Tennessee School for the blind talking about her experiences growing up.

We were honored to have Past International President Jim Ervin as our international representative at the convention. He was made a very motivational presentation that encouraged and strengthened us as Lions. If you were not there, you missed a good one! If you aren't involved in Lionism beyond the club level, you're missing out on a lot of fun and fellowship.

I would be remiss if I didn't take the time to thank all those who worked so long and hard behind the scenes to make the convention go so smoothly. Particularly, I want to thank the Convention Committee comprised of PDG Hazel Bailey, Chair; PDG Frank Young; and IPDG Keith Lawrence. I am also indebted to Lion Starlene Buie, PDG Patsy Milom and Lion Jim, PDG Thom Wilson, PID Allen Broughton and Lion Emily; Lion Nolen Bailey; DGE Ann Young; 1VDGE Lynn Wright and Lion Emily; Lion Gary Huntzinger; Lion Jim Oldham, who made it possible for the TSB Chorus and Ashley to participate; and, my partner in service, Lion Linda.

I also want to say a special thanks to the Chapel Hill Club for sponsoring the reception Friday evening and the College Grove Club and the Donelson Club for sponsoring and hosting the hospitality room.

CONGRATULATIONS NEWLY ELECTED DISTRICT OFFICERS: I know you want to join with me in extending a hearty congratulations to those who were elected as 2010-11 District Officers: Ann Young (Houston County), Governor Elect; Lynn Wright (Donelson), First Vice District Governor; and, Mark Cook (Dickson) as Second Vice District Governor. I

know you will give them the same corporation and support next year you have given me during this Lionistic year.

STATE CONVENTION: Every 5th year District 12-I hosts the State Convention. This year, for the first time in history, “The Queen City,” Clarksville, TN, has been selected to host the 92nd Annual Convention – May 21-22. The convention site will be the Riverview Inn, 50 College Street, phone 877-487-4837. Mention “Lions State Convention” for the group rate of \$79.00 per night plus tax. The cutoff for group rate is May 1, as is the cutoff date to purchase the Registration/Hospitality Book. You can download a registration form at <http://12ilions.com/images/92ndTNLionsConventionRegistration.pdf>. Mail the completed form with checks made payable to “Lions State Convention 2010” to Convention Chair PCC Dan Artis, 113 N. Church St., Waverly, TN 37185. A District Breakout Session will be held at the convention on Saturday at which time I will make most of my acknowledgements and awards for this Lionistic year. So, if you are expecting an award or believe you deserve one, you best be there for the break-out session of Saturday!

STATE DIRECTORY INFORMATION: I want to take this opportunity to clear up a significant misunderstanding regarding the MD-12 Directory Information for next year. Each year, MD-12 publishes a State-Wide Directory listing information about every club in the district, i.e., names of the Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Membership Chairs as well as name and address of the club meeting place and the times and dates of the meetings. These Directories are disseminated each year to club and district officers for their use in conducting district and state business. They are usually distributed at the MD-12 organizational meeting usually held at the Tennessee School for the Blind the first Saturday in August (a good reason for club and district officers to attend the meeting).

This same information has to be filed annually with Lions Club International (LCI) either electronically on the www.lionsclubs.org website or manually on the PU-101 form. Now here is the important point: **THEY ARE TWO SEPARATE THINGS AND ONE DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF THE OTHER!!** If you do not send me the information, I cannot include it in the state-wide directory; if you do not send it to LCI, the club presidents and secretaries will not receive the necessary passwords to log on to the LCI website in order to file their monthly membership reports (MMR’s).

I know this is redundant and somewhat confusing, and I apologize for that, but I do want the club officer’s names to appear in the State-Wide Directory and the club officers to receive pertinent information from LCI.

EXTENSION WORKSHOP: A *New Club Extension Workshop* will be held in the Old Hickory / Madison / Rivergate areas on April 18 – 21, 2010. PCC John Barnett from England (Arkansas, that is) will be the international representative heading up the workshop. Lion John is no stranger to

District 12-I, having been year on two previous occasions to conduct extension workshops.

The *Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites* located at 120 Cartwright Ct., Goodlettsville, TN 37072, will serve as the base for the operation. A block of rooms has been set aside for those of you from out of town that might be willing (PLEASE!) to help with the effort. You will need to contact the hotel directly at 615-851-1891 and make your own reservations. Please ask for the Lions rate when confirming. Tentative plans are to conduct a Certified Guiding Lions Class on Sunday afternoon, April 18, and a brief training program on Monday morning prior to “hitting the pavement” recruiting new Lions.

If you can and will help in this effort (PLEASE!!), drop me an Email at rabrewer@comcast.net and let me know so that we can make work assignments. THANK YOU!!

I deeply appreciate PDG Patsy Milom's agreeing to serve as the Coordinating Lion for this workshop!

COLUMBIA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: On the dates of March 15, 16, and 17, a membership drive was held for the Columbia Lions Club that was established in 1933. Like many clubs in our district and across the United States, members of the Columbia are advancing in years and are not able to physically handle the fundraisers and service projects anymore. Lions Jim Edlin and Jack Gryglewski from the Columbia Club joined with Lions Jim Chapman, Starlene Buie, and Thom Wilson and me in the effort. A lot of contacts were made and the story of the Columbia Club and its value to the community was shared. Although no new members were signed up during the “blitz,” only time will tell whether the effort was successful.

ELIB DONATIONS: I want to express my appreciation for the response to the invitation to bring items to the district convention to donate to Ed Lindsey Industry for the Blind Thrift Store. The response was good and the company van was pretty well filled with items.

I would like to suggest that a collection drive for ELIB would make an excellent service project for your club. They will be more than happy to bring the van to your club and collect the items. Just give them a call at 615-627-4012 or visit the website at <http://elifortheblind.org/> to set up a date.

SENSORY GARDEN FOR THE BLIND: The Franklin Evening Lions Club is conducting a fundraiser for a Sensory Garden for the Blind which will be located near Grassland Elementary School. This garden is one of the first of its kind to be built in the Western Hemisphere. However, for it to become a reality, funds are needed! The Franklin Evening Lions Club is selling engraved 4x8 pavers for \$100 apiece. The cost will cover the expense of the paver, engraving, and the remainder will be split evenly to help fund the sensory garden and the Franklin Evening Lions Club's charities. The first 100 donations will be printed on a plaque in English and

in Braille. The plaque and the pavers will be featured near the center fountain which will be the focal point of the garden. You can order directly through the website at www.bricksrus.com/order/sensorygarden. For more information you can call Lions Pam or Peter Alderman at 615-435 – 3246. This would make an excellent way to honor a member of your club or to publicize your club.

ELVIS LOOK-ALIKE PINS: Elvis is still alive and shakin' in the form of the Elvis-look-alive pins now being sold to benefit Tennessee Lions Charities and Ed Lindsey Industries for the Blind, two 501 (c) (3) non-profit organizations in our District. We still have three of the four colors left: Blue, Pink, and Gold. They are selling for \$5.00 each and will be available at virtually all District 12-I functions. They will make excellent novelty gifts for the die-hard Elvis fan, so buy early and buy often!

STATE LIONS WEBSITE: You are encouraged to visit the Tennessee Lions State website at www.tennesseelions.org. You will find a very friendly and useful website. Also, don't forget to visit 12-I district website at www.12ilions.com

TSB TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE: Many of you attend Lions Day at TSB on the second Friday in December, and I greatly appreciate that; however, have you ever taken a tour of the school and really learned what and how the children are taught? Well, you have the opportunity to do that on April 7, 2010. Beginning at 9:00 am until 2:00 pm TSB will hold an Open House. A very *special invitation* is being extended to the Lions to drop by and spend as much time as you like and see as much as you want! For your entertainment, a special *Elementary Talent Review* will be held between the hours of 12:30 – 1:30 pm in the school auditorium. I hope to see you there!

COUNCIL OF THE BLIND SPONSORS 5K EVENT: I have been asked by the Mid-Tennessee Council of the Blind to disseminate information about a 5K walk/run that will be held at Centennial Park on May 1, 2010, beginning at 10:00 am. For information about sponsorships, contact Dan Dillon at dan.dillon@bellsouth.net.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO MD-12 CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS: Two amendments to the MD-12 Constitution and By-Laws are being presented for action at the 92nd State Convention. Please make sure that these proposed changes are circulated freely and openly in your clubs.

The first proposed amendment (see attachment) provides for a reduction in the number of Lions Club International Committee members who are reimbursed for their travel/expense to the International Convention.

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.

With the passage of this amendment, the effective date will be July 3, 2010.

WHITE CANE CONTRIBUTIONS: 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 payable to District 12-I White Cane Fund and send c/o PDG Patsy Milom, District Treasurer, 1125 Leo Baker Road, Ashland City, TN 37015. 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>.

2010-2011 DG CLUB VISITATION SCHEDULE: DGE Ann has already made her DG club visitation schedule for 2010-11 year. I have attached a copy for your review. If you have conflicts or for some reason cannot accommodate the DG's visit on the date scheduled, please let her know as soon as possible so that she can finalize her calendar.

ADDENDUM: As is usually the case, after I hit the "send" button there is something else that occurs to me that should have been included. This time was no exception.

NEW OFFICER TRAINING: Each year training on how to be more effective and efficient as a club officer is provided for the newly elected Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers. If you have been elected to one of these offices for the 2010-2011 Lionistic year, you need to be involved in this training!!

I know many of you have served in these positions before, some multiple times, particularly those of you serving as Secretary and Treasurer, but you still need to be updated on the new methods and procedures for doing the job. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the training sessions that have been planned for you!!

The dates for the 2010-2011 Officer Training Sessions are:

June 5 at the Lions State Headquarters Building, 500 Fessler's Lane, Nashville, TN 37210

June 12 at the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, 316 North Horton Parkway, Chapel Hill, TN 37034.

Both sessions begin at 9:00 AM with registration, coffee and doughnuts at 8:30 AM.

DIABETES INFORMATION: The leading cause of blindness in adults is type II diabetes. Lion Greg Beem, District 12-I Diabetes Awareness Chair, asked that I forward the attached summary of two very interesting articles about diabetes.