

District(s) Merge Update

In December of 2010, I reported that representatives from Districts 11-B1 and 11-C2 had met to discuss the feasibility of a merger between the two districts due to continuing difficulties in substantial membership growth and the increasing difficulties of running a district with fewer members than Lions Clubs International defines as a healthy district.

Our District formed a Study Committee consisting of 10 former, present or incoming District Governors to discuss the pros and cons of a merge.

On January 22, 2011, your cabinet voted to put the concept on the agenda of the upcoming District Convention and place it in the hands of the membership as an advisory vote.

Since that meeting there was so much discussion, comments and e-mails between Past District Governors, clubs and individual members that District Governor Barb Treichel felt it was necessary to call a Special Executive Cabinet Meeting for February 26. The majority of the PDG's were saying there wasn't enough time or information given to the clubs at this time to make a decision as important as merging with another district at this time.

After much discussion a motion was made, and approved, to rescind the original motion to place the merger proposal on the April convention ballot, according to the wishes of membership.

LION OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Lion Carlton Stanley for being selected Marshall Lion of the Year on February 22! He's been an instrumental Lion in our club since being inducted in February of 1973 and a driving force, along with Dick Walker, in the annual pancake brunch.

“Mr. Peepers”

(Remember that 1950's show?)

Marshall Lion David Begg is learning how to inspect and sort used eyeglasses from a local doctor who is going to Zambia, Africa. Lion Dave will accept all glasses, even pairs of lenses and frames without lenses.

Other Lions Clubs, including the Battle Creek Host Lions, Quincy Lions, Tekonsha Lions and Michigan Center (2,800 pair) have donated glasses to the Marshall Lions to be forwarded to David, who will clean them before delivery to .

There may be a Lions Club that meets at the Wasawange Lodge in Airportroad, Livingstone, Zambia known as the Livingstone Mosi-O-Tunya Lions of District 413. That still needs to be verified.

It would be best for Region 3, Zone 1 (Battle Creek area) to pass their glasses to pass their glasses to the First Wesleyan Church THROUGH the Marshall Lions so David can sort and clean them before delivery.

February Activity

- The Marshall Lions paid for four pairs of eyeglasses and exams through the Fountain Clinic.
- Lions Carlton Stanley, Mike Dauphinais (and grandson Dakota Barnes) and Dick Walker participated in Winter Camp for the Blind.
- Lion Mike Dauphinais and grandson Dakota participated in the Chelsea Bowling Tournament to raise funds for Penrickton Center for the Blind.
- Donated \$50 to Julie Pilaczynski to travel to England as a Youth Exchange Student.
- Lion David Begg recycled eyeglasses and delivered them to the Padouk Lions Club of Cameroon, Africa, in District 403-B.

Spring Leadership Forum April 28

Our District's Spring Leadership Forum will be at the Vandercook Lake Junior/Senior High School at 1000 East Golf Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, off of East McDevitt.

The Marshall Lions should be scheduling our nominating meetings to choose our club officers for the year 2011-12.

Our newly elected, as well as returning club officers are encouraged to participate in this valuable program. New programs, trainers and information will be distributed this year.

There are important updates for club secretaries and treasurers.

Deadline for registration is Friday, April 21. Cost is \$10 with a meal, or \$2 without a meal. There will be no refunds after April 20. Time of registration is 5:30-6:30 PM. Training sessions will be at 6:45-8:45 PM

LAS VEGAS

There is still time to purchase raffle tickets for a trip to Las Vegas. It includes the airfare for two and a 3-bedroom home for 5 days and 4 nights.

The District Cabinet approved the use of this District Raffle to help balance the treasury for District 11-B1.

We are selling \$5 raffle tickets for this trip, which is good within a year from our District Convention.

Lion Mike has plenty of tickets remaining, but **TIME IS RUNNING OUT!** The drawing will take place at the Saturday Banquet at the Convention in April.

You need not be present to win but all tickets have to be turned in to Cabinet Treasurer John Krienke by April 16th at 2:00 PM.

Show your support of District 11-B1 by buying or selling the raffle tickets.

FRED WEBERLING MEMORIAL BOWLING NIGHT

Lion Don Weberling has asked me to inquire about putting a team together to bowl in memory of his brother Fred at the Marshall Bowling Lanes on Friday, April 1, 2011 at 7:30 PM.

Teams cost is \$100 so we would need 5 bowlers and \$20 apiece.

If Lion Don is in attendance during the March 22 meeting, he can elaborate on the event.

If we get 5 Lions interested, Lion Mike will pick up a sign-up list from Marshall Lanes.

Service Animals

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), privately owned businesses that serve the public, such as restaurants, hotels, retail stores, taxicabs, theaters, concert halls, and sports facilities, are prohibited from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. The ADA requires these businesses to allow people with disabilities to bring their service animals onto business premises in whatever areas customers are generally allowed.

The ADA defines a service animal as any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability.

Service animals perform some of the functions and tasks that the individual with a disability cannot perform for him or her. Guide dogs are one type of service animal, used by some individuals who are blind. This is the type of service animal with which most people are familiar. But there are service animals that assist persons with other kinds of disabilities in their day-to-day activities. Some examples include: Alerting a person with hearing impairments to sounds; pulling wheelchairs or carrying and picking up things for persons with mobility impairments; assisting persons with mobility impairments with balance.

A service animal is NOT a pet.

