

**2006-2007**



**DISTRICT 8-S**

**JANUARY 2007**

**From District 8-S Governor Bryan Foret**

Greetings fellow Lions, Lionesses, Auxiliary and Leo members: I hope that each of you and your club members had a great Christmas and wish each of you a very Happy New Year. Speaking of New Year it is a time for reflection on what happened in the past and to look forward to the future for bigger and better things. Just as you personally may have made a resolution for 2007 like losing weight, saving money, eating right (especially after all those holiday parties), quitting smoking, volunteer to help others or as the TV commercial implies move organization to the top of the resolution list, so to can your club make New Years resolutions to make the club environment better for the club and the community your club serves. Think about how your club can improve in so many ways, things like: resolve to do more service projects in your club area; resolve to strengthen membership; resolve to get more member participation in all club activities. Below I have an article on tips for making a good New Years resolution, please share it with your club membership and provide me feedback on what your clubs' resolution for the calendar year 2007, and of course make sure you and your club follows through with it.

**District Governor Calendar for December**

1/1 – Happy New Year

1/11 Bayou Blue-Coteau Lions Club

1/13-14 Louisiana Lions Camp quarterly meeting, Holiday Inn Baton Rouge South (9940 Airline near I-12 phone 225-924-7021)

1/15 – Letters due 8-S Charities Secretary and district Nomination Chair for 8-S Charities representatives club endorsements

1/25 – 8-S Charities meeting at Marrero Lions Home 7 p.m.

**Happenings around the District**

Many thanks to those that participated, as well as the **Lakeside Lions Club** for use of their hall, in the Certified Guiding Lion training on December 2 at the Lakeside Lions Home, this produced 13 additional Certified Guiding Lions for our district. Many thanks also to Lion **Bob Williams, PDG** who guided the attendees through the course material to achieve this honor. Those participating were **Lions Sharon Williams, Bob Grace, Cherie Foret, Cesar Fonseca, IPDG, Earl Pellegrin, Lana Pellegrin, Jerry Dupre, Joyce Dupre, Leroy Falgoust, Anthony Fregosi, Elliot Bauman, Jack Wallace, PDG and Bryan Foret, DG.**

Beginning Saturday January 6 and every Saturday night thereafter the **Westwego Lions Club** will finally restart Bingo at there Home located at 410 4<sup>th</sup> St in Westwego, the first game starts at 6 P.M. Additionally, beginning January 21 and every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (starts at 2 p.m.) they will again start their children's' bingo where younger children are invited to play for cash and prizes.

**Leadership Chair MERL Team 8-S – Lion Bob Williams, PDG**

One of the most important daily tasks of a leader is to develop leaders. Leader development for many is a challenge. It requires you to trust others. It requires you to allow others to perhaps fail in order to learn. Can you accept that? Are you willing to accept a small failure to develop a future leader? Can you get out of the way and perhaps watch a fellow Lion exceed your expectations? Are you willing to lift others to your level or are you trying to distance yourself from others to distinguish yourself?

To empower others, you have to trust and be willing to take a risk. You have to want to get to know your fellow Lions and find what makes them tick. A leader will do this. By understanding your fellow Lions,

they will feel your trust, they will come to experience the growth that accompanies that trust and you will find you have developed your most loyal members.

**Club Retention Chair** – Clubs should always be concerned with the status of your club membership regarding not only the quality and quantity of the new members but also the participation of the existing club membership in club activities. You have seen in the newsletter several articles pertaining to reasons why members become disinterested in retaining membership in your club, and thus far we have seen 97 members dropped from the 8-S roster because of many of these reasons, but I am asking that your club appoint a member as the “Retention Chair”. This interested Lion should perform the following responsibilities:

- Keep all members involved in club activities by keeping them informed
- Understand all aspects of the President’s Retention Campaign
- Examine your club for trouble areas that are in need of corrective measures
- Set realistic, measurable goals (approved by the club’s board of directors)
- Develop an action plan for meeting goals (approved by the club’s board of directors)
- Meet regularly with members of the membership committee
- Maintain contact with district retention chairperson (Lion Joe Maggiore, PCC) to report status, share ideas, ask questions or seek advice
- Apply and follow through on recommended strategies
- Meet regularly with the members of the Three-Person Membership
- Maintain cooperation and respect among members
- Recommend retention strategies to club leadership
- Encourage new members and experienced members to consider a Protégé Lion-Mentoring Lion relationship through the Lions Mentoring Program
- Communicate with the club membership chairperson to ensure new members are immediately involved in club activities
- Conduct exit interviews with members who are leaving to ascertain their reasons for leaving and to see if any corrective measures could be applied to prevent additional resignations

As this Lion is appointed please send their name to the Cabinet Secretary (Lion Bob Williams, PDG) with the club monthly report. Materials for the Retention Chair are available either on the Lions International website or have the club secretary request them thru the Membership and Retention Department of Lions International. **Do this now** to preserve the Lions that we do have. Following the guidelines in the Retention Chair manual will bring tremendous results to your club now and in the future.

**In line with the Leadership** article by Lion PDG Bob Williams, now is the time that each club should begin the “**Club Election Procedures**” especially so each club can have their election of the 2007-2008 club officers so that each club meets the reporting requirement to Lions International (and the district) by April 15, 2007 on the PU-101 or on the International website. Following are the *General Procedural Guidelines for Club Elections* as provided by Lions Clubs International:

- *Club Elections* – Timing: Elections are to be held no later than April 15 of each year. The club secretary is required, either by mail or by personal delivery, to give notice to each member of the club at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the date of election. (Standard Form Club By-Laws, Article IV, Section 1.)
- *Nomination Committee*: The Club President appoints the nomination committee, which submits the names of candidates for various club offices to the club membership at the nomination meeting. (Standard Form Club By-Laws, Article IV, Section 2.) (Ideally this would occur during the January time frame)
- *Nominations*: Nominations may be made from the floor of the nomination meeting. Once nominations have been closed, no more nominations may be made. If the nominee/s is unable to serve, and there is no other nominee, the nominating committee may submit, at the election meeting, names of additional nominees for that office. (Standard Form Club By-Laws, Article IV, Section 2 and 3.)
- *Eligibility for Office*: To be eligible for club office, the Lion must be an active member in good standing. (Standard Form Club By-Laws, Article II, Section 2.)

- *General Voting Guidelines:* Unless otherwise provided in the respective club constitution and bylaws, the election shall be by ballot by those present and eligible to vote. A plurality vote is necessary to elect.
- *Quorum:* The presence in person of a majority of the members in good standing. (Standard Form Club By-Laws, Article III, Section 5.)
- *Eligibility to vote:* Voting privileges are granted to members present who are in good standing and fall into one of the following membership categories: Active, Affiliate, Associate, Life, Member at Large and Privileged. The president is entitled to one vote, so long as he or she is in good standing.
- *Plurality vote:* The candidate receiving the largest number of votes has a plurality.
- *Form of Ballot:* Unless otherwise provided in the respective club constitution and by-laws, or other adopted rules, in elections, “for” and “against” spaces or boxes should not be used. They are applicable only with respect to votes on motions. An election, in effect, is a vote on filling a blank, and a voter can vote against one candidate only by voting for another who has been nominated or by writing in the name of another candidate.

## **Tips for Making Good New Year's Resolutions**

There is a right way and a wrong way to make a New Year's resolution. Here are a few expert tips to see that your resolution actually makes a difference:

### **1. Create a Plan**

Setting a goal without formulating a plan is merely wishful thinking. In order for your resolution to *have resolve*, (as the word "resolution" implies), it must translate into clear steps that can be put into action. A good plan will tell you A) What to do next and B) What are all of the steps required to complete the goal.

### **2. Create Your Plan IMMEDIATELY**

If you're like most people, then you'll have a limited window of opportunity during the first few days of January to harness your motivation. After that, most people forget their resolutions completely.

**It is imperative that you begin creating your plan immediately.**

### **3. Write down Your Resolution and Plan**

Commit your resolution and plan to writing someplace, such as a notebook or journal.

### **4. Think "Year Round," Not Just New Year's**

Nothing big gets accomplished in one day. Resolutions are set in one day, but accomplished with a hundred tiny steps that happen throughout the year. New Year's resolutions should be nothing more than a starting point. You must develop a ritual or habit for revisiting your plan.

And finally...

### **5. Remain Flexible**

Expect that your plan can and will change. Life has a funny way of throwing unexpected things at us, and flexibility is required to complete anything but the simplest goal. Sometimes the goal itself will even change. Most of all recognize partial successes at every step along the way. Just as a resolution isn't accomplished the day it's stated, neither is it accomplished the day you reach your goal. Rather, it's accomplished in many small increments along the way. Acknowledge these incremental successes as they come.

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