

MD19 Diabetes Awareness Committee Report

Report by: IPDG Georgia Medwedrich ~ Chairperson

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Diabetes can strike anyone, from any walk of life. And it does – in numbers that are dramatically increasing. In the last decade, the cases of people living with diabetes jumped almost 50 percent. Worldwide, it afflicts more than 415 million adults alone. And the World Health Organization estimates that by 2040, the number of people living with diabetes will more than double.

Today, diabetes takes more lives than AIDS and breast cancer combined, claiming the life of 1 person every 3 minutes. It is a leading cause of blindness, kidney failure, amputations, heart failure and stroke. Do I have your attention?

As Diabetes Awareness is LCI supported, Lions work with the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) to promote diabetes awareness. NDEP is the leading public education program that promotes diabetes prevention and control in the USA. NDEP also provides diabetes resources and publications. It's time that our clubs became more cognizant of this disease and took part in supporting either by sending a child to camp or hosting an awareness day, or both! This needs to be brought to the attention of more than just the Lions that read the Diabetes Newsletter, this needs to be taken into our communities. Are you willing to help? In MD 19 there are 9 Districts, each with a Diabetes Chairperson, the Diabetes Chairperson is there to assist each club in their District with any Diabetes initiative they wish to take part in. Each year in November we celebrate World Diabetes Day, why not support your clubs by helping them to get something started to show Diabetes Awareness?

I have heard from District A and District C Diabetes Chairpersons regarding their current year, both Districts are busy bringing awareness to their communities either by hosting a Walk for Diabetes donating the money toward sending a child to camp and retinopathy help for those afflicted. Canadian Clubs host Tag Days donating the monies received to Diabetes Awareness. As clubs are beginning to hold their elections I hope that the new board of directors, if they haven't already will consider having a Diabetes Chairperson in place in their club and host an awareness event. Contact your District Diabetes Chairperson for ideas.

I thank you for your time.
IPDG Georgia Medwedrich
MD 19 Diabetes Awareness Chairperson