

MD19 Environment Report

Report by Dr. Nancy Messmer-Chairperson

As the Environment Chairperson for Multiple District 19, I work to encourage Lions to include environmental projects in their array of service projects, and to highlight the good work that Lions are doing.

“Protecting Our Environment” is one of the four Centennial Global Service Action Campaigns, with Lions all over the world implementing projects to improve and protect our environment locally and globally. MD 19 Lions spearhead community and environment improvement projects and also join other groups in coordinated projects. These projects will be highlighted in the Border Crossing and media presentations. The LCI website presents a cornucopia of project ideas, media, and support materials: <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/member-center/planning-projects/community-environment/index.php>

Spring Conference Workshops on “Protecting Our Environment”. As MD 19 Environment Chair, I attended seven of the nine District Conferences and provided display materials to the other two. It was a pleasure to travel to Abbotsford, Wenatchee, Pasco, Courtney, Spokane, Vancouver/Portland, and Bothell to work with Lions from British Columbia, Washington and Northern Idaho.

I partnered with District Environment Chairs, working at display tables featuring Lions completing Environment Projects. We hosted seminars facilitating sharing among Clubs and learning with each other about great projects around our Multiple District. It is invigorating to learn with Lions about the amazing work we do in our communities. I sent attendees follow-up emails, full of links to good resources and people.



Lions Do Great Work....shhhh...in Secret?

Picture yourself in this seminar. Lions write down Environment Projects their Club does. We go around the circle, sharing what we've written. With each project explained, we hear "Oh, we do that," and "we do that, too." Turns out that Clubs do many Service projects that "Protect our Environment", but don't think of them as such. Examples are recycling eyeglasses, recycling community items through thrift shops and rummage sales, or supporting parks and gardens. I urge Lions to survey current projects, and make sure that they write and submit service activity reports for all of the Centennial Service Challenge areas, Engaging Our Youth, Sharing the Vision, Relieving Hunger and Protecting our Environment. Also important is encouraging Secretaries to include multiple Challenge areas when appropriate. For instance, a project that includes kids building and maintaining a food garden, addresses three goals (Youth, Hunger, Environment).

Another common comment from Lions is that they participate in many projects that protect our environment, but they don't do the work as formal Lions projects. It is

important for Lions to expand our ideas of Lions service to include projects in which we partner with others, as participants, supporters, registrars, photographers, journalists, cooks, and more. These are all opportunities to expand the public knowledge of Lions and expand our membership.

Emphasize to Lions that we need to share our great work. Ask fellow Lions (or their kids or grandkids) to take lots of photos. Focus on action pictures. Submit articles to local newspapers, community newsletters, your Club Facebook page, and to me. I'll write articles and post on MD 19 Environment Page.

Need For Photos and Info from Each District to Create Media Displays and an Online Databank of Multiple District 19 Environment Projects.

Please send photos, contact information and particulars to Nancy Messmer (able@olypen.com). Many Lion service projects and Centennial Legacy projects fall in these categories and so many more.

Tree Planting

Gardens

Highway Cleanups

Recycling

Community Cleanups

Stream/Forest Restoration

Beach and Shoreline Cleanups

Parks and Camps

Sustainable Food Gardens

Education Programs

Help build safe drinking water system

Decrease plastic waste consumption

Host environmental film festival

School-wide recycling program

Join Lions Clubs around the world on the Lions Blog (<http://lionsclubs.org/blog/>).



Organize a Lions Recycling Project

Thursday, April 15, 2011



Walnut Grove Leos Plant Trees. Lions Blog:Recycling Project. Blog: Tree planting in India.

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