

Feb.8, 2020

Council of Governors Meeting, Bellingham WA.

Leo Report

MD 19 has 47 Leo Clubs with 1349 members which is down considerably from last year. Being a Leo Advisor is a big job and a huge responsibility. In some/most cases it is a larger job than being President of your Lions Club. One thing that our Leo Advisors have to do to ensure Leos get credit for their service that entitles them to membership fee discounts till the age of 30. Also to ensure Leos are eligible for Awards Leos have to be registered in the LCI computer. It's a lot of work to get this done but currently with 49 Leo clubs we have 30 Leo clubs showing no new member entries for this Lions year. This suggests the reason we show a decline in Leo membership is because Leos have a great deal more members that have just not been registered with LCI yet. I can only encourage the Leo Advisors out there to spend a few hours on the dreaded administration duties and give us a truer picture of how many Leos we actually have. Once you start it gets easier as you enter them.

It is hoped we can establish a new fund raiser to send Leos to Educational seminars, Conferences, Leo Retreats, Canada/USA Leo Forums, and even International and District Conventions. This type of exposure for our Leos can only have a positive effect on our Leo youth Leaders and on Lions members.

Alberta MD Lions funded and sent 10 Leos to the Canadian Leo Retreat in Ontario last year and the effect on the Leo program in Alberta has been remarkable and positive. Something for Lions in MD 19 to emulate if we as Lions offer incentives to Leos to attend these events we will strengthen our Leo program here. The biggest impediment for our Leos to attend, is most of them are High School Students and their parents struggle to afford to send them, so many Leos that would like to attend just can't or don't. Some funding/fund raising support from Lions for Leos will change this to a positive program and hopefully it will turn into long term support. We can make this happen.

**“Rotary Clubs” raise funds and spend money to send their youth to seminars and educational forums, an Educational program our Leos could benefit from.**

**The growth of Leo Clubs in our MD 19 has slowed a little and we need to reinvigorate our Lions Clubs to keep working on new Leo Clubs. The construct of a new Leo Club is not easy it takes on average three years from inception through to Charter. It is worthwhile for the Lions Clubs and most importantly for your communities. The Citizenship, Leadership growth serves your youth and especially the future of your communities and our Lions Clubs. We have witnessed the quality of our Leos of the Year candidates/winners the last few years and their quality demonstrates we Lions are on the right path.**

**Yours in Lions**

**Submitted Respectfully**

**Barry Shiles**

**MD 19 Leo Chair**

**Member LCI Leo Advisory Panel for CA2, 2019-2021**