

Council of Governors Leo Report June 27, 2020

Lions, this is my last MD 19 Leo report, I leave this position of "Service" with great reluctance and reservations, I leave under the realization that you cannot and should not be "Chair for Life" as the saying goes and sometimes your health dictates what you can do. Reluctance: Yup! wanted to stay, there is so much more to do in regards to our Leos. We need Leo Training, Leo Advisor training we need Club growth, ideally there would be a Leo club sponsored by every Lions club in MD 19, even better a Leo club and a Leo/Lion Club sponsored or started by each Lions club to retain our Leos in the Lions family. While it seems the MD 19 has a lot of Leo clubs we in fact have less than 1% of the Leo Clubs worldwide. Reservations: Yup! "Who can do a better job and have the knowledge I have" WELL that statements is just not true, New eyes, New approach, and especially New Energy by our new MD 19 Leo Chair PDG Lyndon Harriman will serve our Leos well. I wish our new MD 19 Leo Chair PDG Lyndon Harriman all success and offer my assistance and knowledge freely to our new MD 19 Leo Chair.

I am not leaving Leos, just stepping back a little, still a Leo Advisor for Earl Marriott SS and will be the District-H Leo Chair.

THINGS TO DO: Leo Chairs and Leo Advisors, we have one last thing to finish off the School year, although the school year was shortened by the pandemic we have a lot of outstanding Leo Clubs out there that need to be recognized. **THE LEO CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CLUBS:** Google (LCI or Leo Club Excellence Award Form, for the form) Advisors you have till August to submit the nomination form. I am sure there are Leo Clubs out there that in spite of the shortened year still qualify and deserve recognition for their donations, service projects and club origination. Please don't let the virus win you know that your group of Leos did an awesome job of community service and service to their schools, building leaders through Leos service **THEY DESERVE RECOGNITION FOR THEIR SERVICE.** Please complete and send in the nomination form. Thanks.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE: As you Leo Advisors and Leo Chairs anticipate and plan for next year there most probably will be challenges with our Leo Clubs. For instance –Will Lions be allowed access into the schools for meetings,. Most likely this means we will need to change to VIRTUAL OR VIDEO MEETINGS. Make a point of contacting your school administration or your Teacher sponsor to keep up with what is happening, regards Pandemic rules set by your school administration.

ZOOM looks like the likely method of accomplishing these meetings with you Leo Clubs. A lot of the Lions Clubs have been using ZOOM for their meetings and becoming familiar with this meeting method. I recommend to all the Leo Chairs and Leo Advisors to do your best to learn how to use this communications platform. You don't want to be embarrassed by the kids knowing more about it than you, Most Leo meeting are only a half hour long and you get the first forty minutes on ZOOM free So I suggest you give this a try. Communicate with your Leo Executives and prepare them for the possibility of change.

LIONS CLUBS THAT HAVE NOT YET SPONSORED A LEO CLUB: All I can say to each and every Lion is ,

LEOS WILL BE THE BEST THING THAT WILL EVER HAPPEN TO YOUR LIONS CLUB. Personally speaking taking on the responsibility of a Leo Club the building of our youth was the best thing I have ever done in my 44 years as a Lion. I was reinvigorated, inspired by the great kids/youth I had the opportunity to meet, train and work with. Exposing our Leos to what Lions is all about was revealed to me in a Podcast my Leos sent me. Sometimes you wonder if you are getting through to them then out of the blue they send you something unsolicited that knocks your socks off. "They did hear, they did understand they were affected by what they were exposed to about Lions International and what Lions do all over the world!"

THE NEXT STEP.: Once you have established a Leo Club: LCI has a TRANSITION FORMULA to all of us Lions on how do we RETAIN our Leos and TRANSITION them to a Leo/Lions Club or your club. The Leos might even bring along their parents to join Lions, think about it instead of dad sponsoring their kids the kids will sponsor dad. This scenario will have a very dramatic effect on your Lions Club and your community. One of the things that is happening to our clubs is as we age we lose contact with our community members—bringing in Leos into your Lions Club will re-establish your connections in your community's. This will result in your Club being healthier – new young members in your or a branch club and ensure the future GROWTH of our Lions Association. This past year we welcomed two new Leo Clubs to our total I want to thank the sponsoring Lions for their hard work and faith in establishing these two clubs.

The real goal in all of this is to make them Leos, Leo/Lions, “Lions for life.”

All or this sounds like a lot of work, but nothing comes easy, this will work, and is so worth the effort. The reward will come to your club and communities , bring in young people and the Lions Association can get back to positive growth numbers in North America and the World.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve these last few years ,and build along with all of you our Leo Clubs, I sincerely hope I have left the MD 19 Leo Program in greater shape that can be built upon and continue to grow. “Leos are the Future of Lions”

Submitted respectfully

Barry Shiles

MD 19 Leo Chair

CA 2 Leo Advisory Panel Member