



Lions District 2-A2

Stepping Up Our Service



Issue 10~ April 2020

“Hope Smiles from the threshold of the year to come, Whispering 'it will be happier'...”

— Alfred Lord Tennyson



My Fellow Lions:

I hope everyone is well and have not gone stir crazy being quarantined. After this is all over, we are either going to go on Weight Watchers or AA; hopefully not both. As Lions, we find ourselves in an unusual predicament. Suddenly, our routine has stopped, and we must adjust to a new way of life. Now is the time to reassess our clubs, service projects and fundraisers for the upcoming year. Club Presidents could send the Club Assessment forms to all your club members. You can also fill out the Club Excellence Award to be submitted before August 31, 2020. As a District, we are continuing to finish out our Lion Year of 2019-2020. There are quite a few changes and adjustments on how we will be conducting business. Hopefully, we can learn from the impact that COVID-19 has put on the way we continue our service to our communities and continue with the running of our clubs. Below is an update on what is happening in the upcoming months:

District Convention

I had sent out an email regarding the cancellation of the District Convention that was supposed to have taken place on April 3-4, 2020 in Kerrville, Texas. We are hoping to have a meeting in late May or early June. We may have to do a virtual meeting; hopefully not. The camera puts on an extra 10 pounds and I've already gained weight staying at home. I may need to wear a mask when I'm at home, not because of the virus but to stop me from eating. The struggle is REAL folks. 🙄

Voting

We still need to have voting for the incoming District Officers and Boards. I had sent out several emails regarding everything that was going to be on the ballot, i.e. District Officers; Board of Directors for the Human Needs Board and Lion Sight Research Foundation; approval of the Board for the Lions Children Services Program of District 2-A2; the Children Services Constitution and By-laws and Constitutional changes for District 2-A2 and Human Needs Board; and increase of dues.

Club Delegates

It is very important that each club submit their Club Delegate and Alternates to PDG Cal Lawson at [**jlawson6@satx.rr.com**](mailto:jlawson6@satx.rr.com). We are waiting to see how long the stay-at-home order and social gathering is going to last. Per our District Constitution, voting must be made in person; however, LCI has given the District Governors the go ahead to conduct voting as we see is best for our District. The deadline to submit your Club Delegates to PDG Cal is **APRIL 30, 2020**. I will keep the Club Presidents and Secretaries informed of how we will be conducting voting as we start approaching May.

Opportunities for Youth Contest

We will still have the Opportunities for Youth Contest in late May or early June. This contest will be separate from the District Convention Meeting (should we have one). This will only be opened to the Contest Coordinators, Contestants, one Parent, one sponsoring Lions Club Member and the Judges for each Contest. There will be a luncheon. If you have not asked for a refund, then your meal will already be taken care of. If you received a refund, you would need to re-submit your payment for this luncheon. If the cost of the meal is less than what you have originally paid, you will receive a refund of the remainder of your payment. We will keep the sponsoring club informed of when we are able to schedule the contest. The State Convention date has changed. The State Convention will be held in Longview, Texas on **June 26-27, 2020**.

Club Officer Elections for 2020-2021

If your club is not meeting for the month of April, consider the following procedure below:

1. The Club President/Secretary must send out an email to ALL club members requesting a motion to proceed with club officer nominations and elections to be conducted via email. Give a date and time that voting on this process must be submitted (reply all when voting on this process).
2. Once you have a majority vote, the nominating committee chair or the club Secretary must prepare a ballot and email the ballot to ALL club members. Be sure to let your members know when the ballot is to be returned to the nominating committee chair or club Secretary. If you have members that do not have an email address, then you must mail them a ballot. Again, be sure to give them a deadline to submit them to the reporting officer.
3. Once you receive the ballots, they must be printed out and given to the club Secretary for recording. The Secretary will then email the club members of the results.
4. The club Secretary will then submit the new 2020-2021 Club officers to LCI. The deadline for submitting new club officers is **MAY 15, 2020**. If you can submit officers before the deadline, please do so. The district will need the names for the 2020-2021 District Directory.

Club Events

I know there has been a lot of cancellations of Club Fundraisers and Service Projects. If you have rescheduled any of your club activities, please go to our website at [**district2a2.org**](http://district2a2.org) and submit your club activities on the District Calendar. We would like to support your club in any way we can.

Texas Lions Camp

The Texas Lions Camp May 2, 2020 workday has been cancelled. For further information on the happenings of the Texas Lions Camp, go to their website at [**lionscamp.com**](http://lionscamp.com), under the Media tab, click on the **TLC Blog**. This is where you will find information regarding update information on the Texas Lions Camp.

I know you have heard this numerous times, but WE are all in this together. I know as Lions we are looking for ways to help our communities, just remember to take in consideration of you and your Club members health. Continue to conduct your club business and prepare for the next Lion year, do virtual meetings and communicate with your club members. These are some trying times, let them know you care. Follow the rules, wash your hands, keep your social distance and STAY SAFE. I hope to see you all soon.

This too shall pass.

Happy Easter!!



If I can be of assistance to you and your club, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Service,

Lion Janie

Lion Janie Garza

District Governor 2-A2

Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it.

Helen Keller



Good Morning Lions! Spring is here but not the spring we expected. I'm writing this article from home as we begin sheltering in place to stem the spread of COVID-19. Many of you are in the same situation. Thanks for being safe and for looking out for others by practicing all the healthy measures that we hear about daily from our health care professionals and government leaders.

It won't be long before we adjust to this new normal and find interesting and effective ways of getting things done. We might as well start now.

Planning for next year – Club Officers BC (Before coronavirus) your club nominated officers for 2020-2021. Elections take place in April. Governor Janie sent all club presidents and secretaries a timely email with detailed instructions on conducting our elections with COVID – 19 restrictions in place. Please use her instructions and conduct a safe election. LCI is waiting for your results and we need them here in District 2-A2 as well. We look forward to hearing from you.

Budget adjustments because of restrictions in meetings and fundraising activities – Businesses and families are making adjustments in their budgets because of the radical changes to work and lifestyles across our country. Our Lions Clubs budgets face the same challenges. Take some time to consider your donation priorities for this year and next year. Then use your best thinking as you project next year's fundraising events and donation targets. These are always prudent activities for our clubs and even more important as we face the uncertainty of the next Lions year.

Dealing with coronavirus and club activities – Now that we're DC (dealing with coronavirus) think about how we can proceed. Our communities need our volunteers, our service and our stability. If you can't meet physically consider trying a virtual meeting. This may be uncomfortable for some members but it's worth exploring, even if it's just practice. There are several free programs available on the Internet and all of them provide for meetings using your Internet-connected computer or your telephone. Everyone can participate at no cost. Be sure to look for the free plan. Here are a few that you may want to explore:

www.Freeconferencecall.com

www.zoom.us

www.ringcentral.com

www.webex.com

Service Reporting

As you're exploring new ways of communicating with your members don't forget to report your service. There are three more clubs from District 2-A2 that reported service on the lionsclubs.org website. We're making progress and I urge you to keep reporting.

Donate to LSRF

The flurry of event and meeting cancelations hit our clubs and our Lions Sight Research Foundation hard. First, although we did have the Virtual 5K, our registrations and participation was down from last year and ultimately some (about 60) that registered asked for a refund.

Second, our hope for additional revenue from the Casino Night has been put off until late summer, at least. We are not able to schedule as of yet.

Third, the Bingo fundraising income that we have relied on for many years has been substantially down (by 80% for the past year) which is why we instituted new events like Casino Night, and now it has been shut down completely. When Bingo is allowed to open it will take time for folks to get back to spending the disposable money that they play with.

We know that all of our Clubs are struggling with the same issues, and we hope that you understand. One of our goals is to continue to provide support to our Low Vision patients. We currently have a request from a 62-year-old lady who needs a braille writer that costs \$800.00. Here are a few other folks we've helped through our Lions Sight Research Foundation:

- 17-year-old male about to graduate from high school stricken with LHON Disease
- 13-year-old legally blind boy with hearing loss
- 90-year-old immobile male who continues to maintain a semblance of independence by working online
- 13-year-old legally blind girl whose two siblings and father are visually impaired
- 65-year-old legally blind male with auto-immune issues who is trying to be able to work
- 46-year-old legally blind male with spina bifida going through vocational training
- 77-year-old legally blind female who is a stroke victim
- 31-year-old legally blind male with four children, unable to work
- 9-year-old autistic boy with optic nerve hypoplasia, single mom also has another 3-month-old with profound hearing loss
- 12-year-old boy, blind in left eye and low vision in right

These individuals have been helped through our Lions Sight Research Foundation. Please consider a donation from your charity budget to keep our district sight projects viable.

Membership

Here is our District 2-A2 Health Assessment from Lions International through February 2020. We stumbled this past month to a net loss of 23 members. We have one quarter to go in our Lions year and need every member's help to enroll new Lions to sustain and increase our collective service. We can do this. Here's the update:

●Active Clubs -	64
●Current total members -	1,672
●Member Count 12 Months ago -	1772
●YTD Adds -	143
●YTD Drops -	166
●YTD Net Growth	-23

Enjoy our Texas wildflowers, stay healthy, rethink what service can look like in your community, and enjoy your service.

Stay hydrated,

1VDG Dave Splitek

P.S. A laboratory in California is raising medical marijuana. A flock of terns landed in their garden and ate all their plants. Birds OK? There was no tern left un-stoned.



Dear fellow Lions,

As I sit down to write my article for the April newsletter I wonder if I should write this more as the District Chaplain or more as 2VDG. There is a lot of anxiety about the rapidly changing landscape surrounding the Coronavirus (COVID19) outbreak. The uncertainty of the situation (as it changes daily), the mixed messages, the conspiracy theories all help to heighten this anxiety. In such times we would do well to remember this passage from Isaiah: “Do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand (Isaiah 41:10).

We all need to thank Lion Janie Garza, our District Governor for her leadership during this difficult time. She took decisive action (with council from the district cabinet) to cancel our District Convention the first weekend in April. We are now awaiting direction from Lions Club International as to how we are going to handle the elections that would have taken place at our District Convention. International Constitution and Bylaws give specific instructions on how these elections are to be carried out. These instructions will be hard to carry out as we are instructed to shelter in place.

We are also needing to adapt our youth contests to these difficult times. Lion Abel Martinez and the Opportunities for Youth committee are working for a time and place to hold these contests.

The District Convention is a time for the district to celebrate the work of the District Governor during the past year. Please thank Lion Janie for her service as District Governor especially during this uncertain time.

The month of March is “save our sight” month and PDG Sam Pantusa has worked hard preparing for it only to have to cancel Casino Night and do some adjusting for our Stride for Sight 5k walk and run. Casino Night will be rescheduled at a later date and you can go to YouTube to see the opening ceremony that took place at the LSRF offices for the Stride for Sight. I hope many of you participate in the walk in your own neighborhoods. That may be a

good way to have the whole district to be involved in their own areas. I went home after the opening ceremony and walked my dog around the neighborhood. Even while sheltering in place you can still get out and exercise. This will help body, mind, and spirit. Just remember that 1VDG David reminds us to stay hydrated.

I know some of our clubs and zones are meeting virtually while others have canceled activities. I am not very computer savvy but am trying to learn all these new ways to communicate. The LCI Convention to be held in Singapore has been canceled. The state convention has yet to make an announcement. Listen to directions given by authorities and follow their directions - things are changing day to day. Refrain from hugs, kisses, and shaking hands (this is hard for me to do). Pray daily that we will be able to get together again soon.

Wash your hands,

2VDG Doug.

San Antonio Founder Lions Club

The San Antonio Founder Lions Club members in District 2-A2 voted to purchase a Blinq. The San Antonio Founder Lions Club planned on presenting the Blinq to our 2-A2 District Governor for the District 2-A2 Lions Children Services Program at the District 2-A2 Convention which was supposed to be held on April 4, 2020 in Kerrville, Texas unfortunately with Covid-19 our District Convention has been postponed. We at the SAFLC wanted to bring some positive news to our District enabling the children who will be served in our community when this challenge we are facing is behind us in history.

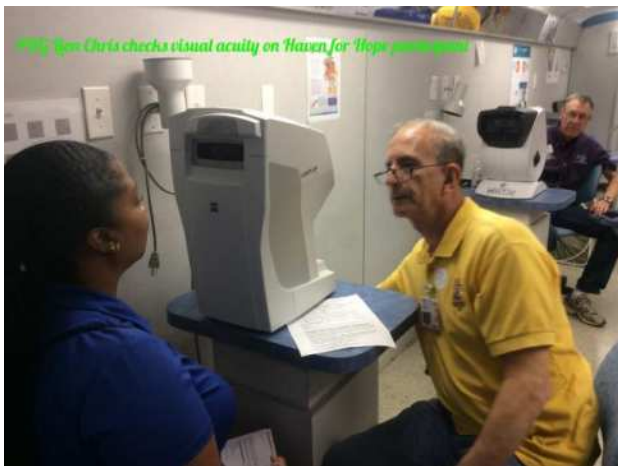
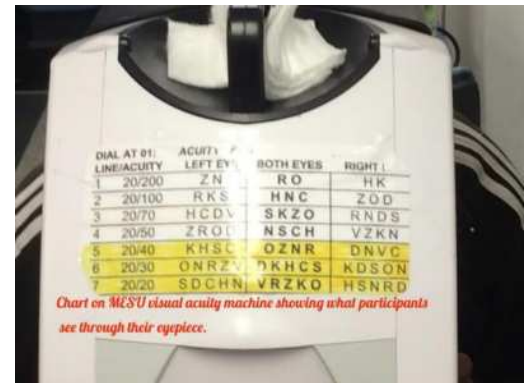


Kathy Jones on left and CK Chorley on right from Rebion in picture.

San Antonio West Side Lions

6 March, 2020

The Mobile Eye Screening Unit (MESU) was used by Lions International District 2A2 to conduct vision and glaucoma examinations at the Haven for Hope Center on 1 Haven for Hope Way in San Antonio Texas. The vision acuity exams were administered by Lion Nick Garcia from the San Antonio West Side Lions Club and Lion David F. "Dave" Splitek, District 2A2 District Governor 2020-2021. Participants were administered visual acuity test using eye chart machines from the MESU. Four individuals failed Far Vision and six failed Near vision. They were referred for further evaluation by an eye doctor. Lion Angie Garcia from the West Side Lions Club conducted Glaucoma testing that measured the eye pressure for both eyes. Two individuals were referred to an eye doctor for further testing.



INFORMATION AND UP AND COMING EVENTS

Please submit all information for newsletter no later than the 25th of each month. You may also submit information to me via email to duncan@bluetopcompanies.com or duncan956@gmail.com. I would also ask to limit the number of photos to a total of 6 please and thank you,

Lion Kenneth Duncan