

Chairman's Corner

To My Fellow Lions,

I take this opportunity to write and express my thanks and gratitude to Governor Avinash K. Rangra, the Lions of Alpine and District 2-T3 for the outstanding effort put forth in hosting over 120 Lions of Texas at our recently concluded second Council meeting. I would also like to thank the staff, service personnel and student ambassadors for making us feel so welcome in such a beautiful state-of-the-art setting as Sul Ross University. From the Tahitian dance troupe to the humorous and thought provoking messages from Lions Dr. Vic Morgan, University President and P.I.D. Marshall Cooper (old Budro hiself) to the sight-seeing and star gazing party, those in attendance had an experience that will not soon be forgotten. Your collective efforts have made this one of the best Council meetings ever.

In addition to having a lot of fun and sharing fellowship, we did attend to a number of major business items to *serve you and the best interests of Lionism in Texas*. Following are some of the actions taken:

1. Employment of the Organizational Development Manager for the Lions of MD-2 Texas.

As designed by our dues increase incentive, the Council hired Lion Ray Reyes to begin work throughout Texas to extend new clubs and to expand membership in existing clubs. With the coordinated effort, direction and cooperation of the Governors, Vice Governors and single district Leadership Teams we feel that we will begin to reverse the declining trend in membership that we have been experiencing.

2. Implementation of the Texas Lions Leadership Forum.

The Council has approved this seminar to specifically provide leadership training for all interested Lions throughout the Texas. The main thrust is being designed to provide skills development for Lions serving as Club officers up through zone and region chairmen. It is our hope that through this effort we will continue to encourage more Lions to offer their service in District and State Leadership roles. (See related article in this newsletter).

3. Expand and implement a program of publicity on Lionism and Lions service throughout Texas.

The Council has begun an effort to review proposed publicity campaigns that will further the statewide communities understanding of and appreciation for the wide array of service projects that Lions are involved in. This publicity effort should be finalized at the next Council meeting in February, 2001, and implemented immediately using all forms of communications to include print, electronic and multi-media.

4 Expand and upgrade the services and information available through the MD-2 Texas Lions State Office.

The Council approved the purchase of a new computer system for the state office. This new equipment and software package will allow for improved communication between the state office and the districts and at the same time bring the state office on-line. This new system will also provide a web page for the Lions to access continually updated information on our programs and activities.

As you can see the 200-2001 Council of Governors, through their due diligence, continue to serve you and strengthen our Lionistic efforts far into the future.

At this time of year when we pause to give thanks for the blessings that we have received, I would like to add my thanks to each and everyone of you for continuing to serve those in need. While we are busy providing food baskets, warm clothing, caring support for seniors, and holiday toys children remember there is another service you can provide and you won't have to have a special fund raiser to complete it! This other service is sharing with a friend, relative, neighbor or co-worker

the warm feeling of pride you get not only now but throughout the year by being an active Lion. At this season of giving, please consider giving someone the opportunity you were given. ***Give the gift of membership and sponsor a New Member.*** Just as I have thanked you for all that you do as a Lion, so will your new member thank you for allowing them to become part of the largest service organization in the world.

I have enjoyed meeting so many fellow Lions in my visits and as I continue my travels to all 16 Districts this year, I hope to meet each of you and if I can be of service to you, I hope that you will give me that opportunity. May God bless you for your Lions service to others and 'til we meet again, I remain,

In Service To You,

Mike

PDG Michael "Mike" Rourke
Council Chairman