

## **Good News, Bad News**

Greetings Fellow Lions of District 4-L1,

Let's take the good news first.

Due to the work of PDG Josephine Louie, RC Steven Chow, and ZC Ginny Hsiao we have a new Lions Club in the making. The Sponsoring Club shall be the LA Envision Lions Club. The Centennial Club Organizers, and enlisted as my choices as Guiding Lions are PDG Josephine, RC Steven, and ZC Ginny. Preliminary paperwork has begun with LCI, I have more "paperwork" to do with LCI, and shall be following up with that process. The requested Charter Date is to be June 1, 2018, and work is already being done to educate our New Lions. I am sure that GLT, GMT, and GST will be involved as training and education continues through the Guiding Lions. The date set for the Club Charter Presentation and Charter Party is October 20, 2018. This New Club has 20 Members signed up with completed applications, and all Members added within 90 days of the official Charter date are to be accepted as Charter Members as well.

Charter President is Chung Sang Allen Chan, Charter Secretary is Sally Chau, Charter Treasurer is Carrie Jong, and Charter Membership Chair is Ronald Lau. Once Lions Clubs International receives all required applications and the \$700 processing fees (I am working with Lion Ginny Hsiao on this, and we have a plan in place), and I am able to fully input all New Membership into "My LCI" the work begins in earnest to highly train our New Club and Membership.

That's the Good News.....

Unfortunately, I also have "bad" news as well. Currently, our District stands at 781 Lions. The excitement of the 20 New Members is countered by losses we may, or are about to have. It is reported that due to Lion Fredrick Tsang moving to Northern California, many Members of the LA Luminous Lions Club are intending to not renew their Membership. As many as 18 Members of the LA Luminous Lions Club are reported to be dropped. ZC Lion Ginny Hsiao has been working very hard with this issue, and I greatly appreciate her efforts, but it appears that the "link" to these Members dropping is through their friendship to Lion Fredrick Tsang. Do not get the wrong idea here, as is the "norm" with read emails, ZC Ginny has been working closely with the LA Luminous Lions, but the bond to many of the Members who appear to be dropping is directly tied to their friendship with Lion Fredrick. In no way is Lion Fredrick advocating Membership to not renew, these Members are choosing this path on their own, no matter how

we have tried to keep them as active Members. We shall need to be very active in the near future to help the LA Luminous Lions Club “reboot” their Club, and I shall be looking for a Guiding Lion Candidate to take on this important role to once again create a level of excitement and commitment to this Club.

As if that wasn't “bad news” enough.....

We may have at least one other Club “packing it in”, but there is hope to maintain that Membership into another Club. Since there is no definite news to report here, I will leave it at that for now.

It has also been requested by the LA Chinese Lions Club to “move” Districts from L-1 to L-2. In my attempts to communicate with the LA Chinese Lions Club Officers, there has been only modest communications, and there have been misconceptions as to my preliminary responses as well. I have kept this quiet until now, as I had hoped to set a meeting with the LA Chinese Lions Club, but they have reported that they are not interested in any such meeting to discuss the issue. This has meant that my stance has been so far to deny the request outright. LCI procedures require the “support” of not only the DG of the District the Club is currently in, but also with the DG of the District the Club wishes to move to. There has been communication with the DG from L-2, who knew nothing of the request, other than to receive a form letter sent by the LA Chinese Lions Club. To be honest, I see no resolution to the issue that I can work with due to the unwillingness of the LA Chinese Lions Officers to meet, so I have turned over all information that I have to the English Language Department of Lions Clubs International. They have agreed to “reach out”, in Chinese if needed and in English, to establish an open line of communication. The LA Chinese Lions Club will need to follow LCI procedures, which I have been trying to communicate to the Club, and I greatly appreciate LCI's help in this matter. I have made it clear to LCI Staff that I cannot “approve” such a move due to the low Membership in our District already, but if LCI sees no other resolution I shall submit to their course of action if that is to “move” the Club. It saddens me that after 28 outstanding years in 4-L1 that the LA Chinese Lions feel this move is necessary, and it greatly threatens the existence of our District in LCI's eyes on my own opinion. I remain hopeful that we can “repair” any unknown issues that exist, and that the LA Chinese Lions Club shall remain in District 4-L1.

Fellow Lions: Doing the simple math tells us that we may be a District with only 740 or so Members if we do nothing. The New Los Angeles Morality Lions Club Membership of 20 is great news. We need to celebrate that, but we must also “double-up” our efforts to find other new Membership. I hope that the Lions who took the Branch Club information home to their Clubs will seriously look to the

effort to build our Membership through this process. Starting and growing a Branch Club may someday create the next new Lions Club in our District, but more importantly, a Branch Club gives us the real opportunity to Mentor and to train new Lions on how to be a successful Club. I am not saying we should not form new Lions Clubs, merely stating that the Branch Club process may help create new Clubs in the future, Clubs that have more training and knowledge to keep them active and strong for the future.

One more thought. This is not a “great idea” nor am I “championing” this idea, but this thought has crossed my mind in our dire situation. Any Lions Member in our current District who is considering dropping Membership for ANY reason, here’s my thought for you. If you “need a change of scenery” let’s talk about forming a Cyber Club “housed” within District 4-L1. Meetings “on-line” with Membership in cyberspace (where ever they may be), but the Cyber Club’s Membership shall be counted within District 4-L1. Call it “The District 4-L1 Host Cyber Club”, or some such name. Create a method to raise funds for charitable giving, support Lions Projects, or just create a method to collect charitable funds for the District 4-L1 Charity Account. The goal is to serve others as best and as often as we can as Lions. Any success that we have in District 4-L1 to increase Membership, and therefore increase the service that we can provide, that my Fellow Lions, is what greater numbers can accomplish.

I Thank Each and Every One of You for Your Service in Lions, and in District 4-L1

District Governor Steven P. Morgan