

DISTRICT 14-N LIONS...MAIL YOUR LEADERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS TODAY!

It is well noted that the future of Lions in our District lies heavily on increasing club membership and the emergence of new leaders. We rely deeply on the creation of new clubs, recruitment of new members, and the growth and development of our new and existing members. Most importantly, Lions must take on leadership responsibility at the club, zone, district, and state levels to put forth a freshness that “new blood” offers to the traditions of Lionism in Pennsylvania. The time is NOW for new leaders to step forward in District 14-N.

Last month and throughout the year DG Bill and the District Global Leadership Team made special requests to all clubs in the District, asking them for help to identify and train emerging leaders from the local club membership rosters. Clubs can certainly help by identifying the District-wide pool of Lions who possess existing or potential leadership skills, or who have a desire and willingness to help lead our District toward its successes in the years to come. With club and District evolution in mind, we must consider overlaying the succession planning process as a means to seek new leaders, prepare and progressively work with them, and give them the necessary tools and information to use in the fulfillment of tasks at all position levels of volunteerism.

More than ever, it becomes apparent that succession planning is presently failing us ...for numerous reasons abound. We simply do not see the new presidential faces, or the new secretaries, treasurers, membership chairs, and other Lion leaders in a manner that we could and should. Many club officers and committee chairs too often seem to be repeat performers, with no apparent opportunity or expectation for others to try their hand at the operational tasks. If and when we unintentionally close the door to new positions of leadership, we also unintentionally deter the growth and development among those members who are willing but hesitant to step up to the plate.

There are numerous leadership roles in every club and district, all of which are important. The key to succession planning is for active Lions to have the opportunity to test their strengths and skills at all levels...be it the project manager, committee chair, or club officer. Similarly, the same holds true at the zone and district levels of operation. In the succession of tasks, there is succession of skills-building. The club volunteer and project manager can truly and comfortably become the District Governor someday. We must all help this leadership progression to occur. We always need new leaders to emerge...and who knows better than each of us at the local club level, just who those potential leaders may be and how they might best be encouraged to step forward.

Please recall that each club was given pre-printed postcards by DG Bill last month, to be completed and returned directly to myself as the District GLT Coordinator. For succession planning to be most effective at the club, zone and district levels, we sincerely seek your club's input and recommendations on identifying those Lions you feel might or should step into leadership roles now and in the future. Please submit your completed postcards back to the GLT Team. Suggest to us those potential leaders that will allow our clubs and District the intended freshness of new ideas and directions that “new blood” can offer. Let us all help to encourage leadership growth and development to happen.

Times are changing constantly and Lionism must also change with time. We all must catch this wave. Adapting to change is not an easy task. Seasoned leaders and new leaders alike must jump aboard, make those adaptations, and then become the mutual guiding force for our future club and District successes. I look forward to your postcards and recommendations as soon as possible. Allow us all to help move Lions growth and development forward in District 14-N.

PDG Don Gibala
District 14-N GLT Coordinator