

# Lions Clubs International MD5M10

## Long-range Plan

March 2016

Long-range planning consists of three major elements:

1. Knowing where we are at.
2. Knowing where we want to be in the future
3. Making good plans that will facilitate reaching those goals

Ideas have been solicited from our Governor's team, GMT, GLT, and zone chairs. I believe that it is in the best interests of 5M10 if this plan is allowed to be amended per current circumstances as the future unfolds. It should not be seen as something etched in stone, but rather as a road-map to a bright future of joyous service. "Detours" are sometimes necessary.

New ideas are not only welcomed, but needed. As you present them, please try to keep the above three elements in mind. It is helpful to ask yourself, "Where does this idea relate at this time? How will it fit in with our future hopes and dreams? How can we best plan to make it happen?"

There are no dumb ideas. We have a large district encompassing some 30,000 square miles (50,000 K). On occasion there will be ideas that work well in one part of the District that will not necessarily work out well in another. The idea should be presented anyway because it could help out another club in a region that shares similar characteristics.

Please take the time to read the following draft and submit suggestions for improvement or clarification per your understanding. We have to start somewhere and I remain convinced that the best results come from a team effort.

Lionistically,

IPDG Mark Osthus

(1)

## Long-range Plan 2016

### Where are we?

We are currently enjoying the harvest of the heroic efforts of many to make District 5M10 viable and strong. Coming out of “transition” has not been an easy task and recent success may be in part attributed to the following:

- A positive perception of who we are and what we do
- A team approach that encourages rather than criticizes
- A buoyant attitude that takes needed action on club, zone and district levels
- A focus on individual clubs and efforts to restore those that are struggling.
- Leadership training events for all club and district officers
- A closer connection to LCI and the international nature of our serving
- A renewed approach to membership awareness and ideas aids to growth
- GMT, GLT and Governor positions have very capable and active leadership

### Where do we want to be?

**Qualitatively** we want to represent the finest characteristics of Lions International. This means that communication, training and dissemination of information to each and every club need to be monitored relative to its clarity and utility so that each member has a sense of their individual importance to Lions. Creativity is the key.

We need more direct communication both to members and to communities in ways that advertise the importance of Lions to our communities and to the world. The scope of Lions has changed drastically since the mid-eighties but a lot of communities have not seen or heard about it. A District that gives direction will be effective and successful.

A five or ten year plan that will continue to develop leaders and monitor those who might be interested would both aid the level of knowledge in existing clubs and prevent gaps in the future. It distressing to see highly motivated individuals not being qualified for higher positions because no one instructed or followed their progress to insure they met qualifications.

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The GLT will accomplish this in various ways including a combination of mentoring, term limits for office, and encouraging PDG's not to fill offices necessary for upward mobility.

**Quantitatively**, membership growth will always be necessary as normal human transitions and death are a constant. Toward that end, the GMT will be aided by Regional Chairs who are in regular communication with the zone chairs and District Governor.

We will continue to examine and promote new member recruiting differently than just numbers. Promotion of fun and community service has to be the priority of the district, not just the individual clubs. New members join because they see others having a good time while accomplishing meaningful service to the community.

We will continue to engage our younger population in meaningful participation. Toward this end, clubs must let them try to take on responsibilities their own way. Training helps but it is little more than lip service if clubs won't let them be responsible.

It is important to communicate respectfully with younger members as they will not invite their peers to an organization that does not follow polite decorum. While all members need to be encouraged, it is especially important that new members be made to feel that they are a significant asset to the club.

The District will continue to promote the work of our younger and newer members at a much higher level. Past misconceptions of telling new members to be involved but forgetting to let them in on the decision making processes that allow them to be involved must be avoided. Assisting neighboring clubs with their projects remains an enjoyable activity and builds *esprit des corps*.

Continued development of leadership skills throughout the district should remain a constant so that we will have trained replacements before they need to be replaced. News from LCI is interesting and when shared at meetings via announcements or video, will help all understand that they are a valued part of a worldwide service organization (even if they do live in Pickle Lake; no offense intended as they are a great bunch).

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Be encouraging. Leaders often don't know that they are leaders until someone tells them. The best are often shy and do their work carefully and well. You will need to ask them more than once until you get a maybe. Then ask them some more.

How will we plan to get there?

### **Long Range Objectives to initiate as DG for 2016-17**

#### **1. Re-establish *Region Chairs***

##### **POSITIVES**

- Act as resource for zone chair (USES PDG's who should have knowledge)
- Provide DG w/monitoring of clubs and zones re; potential club problems
- Train and mentor zone chairs
- Be a conduit for better communications throughout the District
- Visit a representative number of zone meetings
- Post to DG calendar when clubs are having significant activities

##### **CONCERNS**

- Two more cabinet positions
- Additional communications for DG

##### **RESOURCES/MEETINGS**

- Will attend monthly "go to meeting" w/DG team and zone chairs
- Will talk to each zone chair monthly
- Gain knowledge of LCI resources
- Attend cabinet meetings

#### **2. Establish *District Administrator* (use 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG for this position)**

##### **POSITIVES**

- Allows the 2VDG to better understand the District and clubs before he/she becomes engrossed in training as the 1<sup>st</sup> VDG
- Another set of eyes and ears for the DG
- Allows the 2VDG to have a meaningful year before serious training
- Is a one year commitment and then passed on allowing continuity w/o burnout.

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Maintains a positive line of communication w/DG team thereby assisting the entire District

Provides more visibility to 2VDG and DG team throughout the District

### **CONCERNS**

Requires training on LCI procedures & reports

It is encouraged by LCI but DG has to submit form to LCI

Requires District to have a 2VDG before start of year

Has never been done before in 5M10

### **RESOURCES/MEETINGS**

LCI

Dg Team Manual

Cabinet meetings

### 3. Other notes of interest

- a. Eliminate PDG's in zone chair positions to allow younger Lions an opportunity and incentive to move into leadership positions and become DG's
- b. Bring the more recent PDG's into cabinet positions in order that the mentoring of Lions is in keeping w/recent LCI doctrine. Keep exuberant long-term Lions and PDG's as Foundation chairs and advisory roles. Make the midwinter about encouraging newer members to assume responsibility.
- c. Seek to involve one member from each club in cabinet and zone offices. An individual connection to district Lions through leaders in our clubs will stimulate interest in the work of Lions beyond the local scene.