

Greetings Fellow Lions,

This is a great time of year for me. Christmas celebrations, special services, family, food, and football make it great for me. I hope you enjoyed your Christmas and are making wonderful plans for 2015.

The Council's plans for 2015 include a major change in the way the MD Convention in Myrtle Beach from March 27-29, 2015, will be conducted. The primary reason for the date change is we can have the sitting International President Joe Preston with us. Making this date change from late April to late March brought about some other questions: Should we also change the format? Why? What can we expect as a result of these changes? How can we measure those results? I would like to give my answers to these questions.

First, do we need to change the format and why? This year's council met on May 23-24, 2014, to address this question. It was decided by all five of us, VCC Charlene, and PID Gene Spiess, and MD Secretary/Treasurer that this would be a good time to try a change. We spent the weekend hammering out the details of what a new format may look like. Then we assigned parts of the convention for which each District Governor would be responsible.

Then last week I was reading a book by Ken Blanchard entitled, Leading at a Higher Level, and he had a better definition of why change is necessary: "Change is necessary when a discrepancy occurs between an actual set of events- something that is happening right now- and a desire set of events- what you would like to happen." Looking back over the last several years of attendance at our MD Conventions, we would certainly fit that definition.

Second, what can we expect as a result of these changes? More efficiently run meetings, more meaningful service projects, a deeper commitment to the Purposes and Ethics of Lionism are some results that I would like to see happen. How will the changes in the MD Convention format bring about these desired results? More interaction time between and among Lions has been set aside. More breakout sessions for Lions to learn more about Lionism has been built in. Special Lion guests have been invited to focus on different aspects of becoming stronger Lions: Wanda Scroggins for working with the blind, Brandon Johnson and our own Daniel Prohaska for working with younger Lions and potential younger Lions, and Jerome Thompson for building stronger clubs through CEP. By the way, these special guest are paying their own way. A special emphasis on celebrating past and future Lions is scheduled. Special sessions for new Lions and first timer Lions. Sixteen different breakout sessions will be offered on Friday. We are encouraging Lions to come on Thursday night and be there for all of



Joe Pitts, PDG
Council Chairperson
Multiple District 32
2014-2015

P.O. Box 6113
Chappells, SC 29037
(H) 864-995-4232
(C) (864) 490-2439
joepitts6@msn.com

the activities on Friday. I know this may cause other schedules to be changed, but I feel the benefits will pay big dividends.

Third, how will we measure the results of all of these changes? Membership Satisfaction. If we do things better, we will keep members longer. That is the bottom line.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

CC Joe