

Changing Times

*"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude," **Maya Angelou**. A lot in my life has changed. Charlie Foster integrated The Citadel and Shannon Faulkner brought in females. I was shocked to find out Jody Foster and Perry Mason (Raymond Burr) were gay. Pontiac, Plymouth and Mercury are no more. We have a black President and female Governor. I don't recognize most new actors and musicians. I don't understand texting and tweeter language. I find that I am sounding more like my father every day. The latest change was brought about Christmas night. Momma fell and broke her hip and will spend the remainder of her life in a nursing facility.*

My Lions has changed. When I joined, the Kingstree Club was all white males. If you missed three (3) straight meetings without permission and you were dropped. No shorts were allowed. Most members still wore ties to meetings. We had over fifty (50) members and when we had projects most members participated. My club is intergrated with females. We often show up for meetings with shorts and ugly legs. We are lucky if half of the members participate in activities. We have half the number of members. Sadly, we are a good and normal club for the District.

In District 32-C, we had only white males. We had close to 2,000 members. Most were good old Southern boys. We had competition for Vice District Governor elections. The Governor's children performed at the Mid-Winter Conventions. We had families at the Conventions. Gayle Hayes and Ruth Smith were the first females I remember. Carver Johnson and Matt Jones were the first blacks with Ashvin Patel the first Indian. At the Beach, the "Yankees" invaded and the some of the clashes were reminiscent of an earlier war. Things were changing. We need to change with the times.

We now have some of the best leaders in the state and they happen to be females. We have a sexually diverse club that may soon run circles around the old clubs. We are becoming more diverse across the board. I have been very impressed with some of the younger new Lions. They have fresh ideas and are embracing modern technology. The "Civil War" buffs are working together. Times are still changing and I think it is for the better. Some of these changes are hard but I need to work on them. It may mean that I will have to change some, too. I want my Lions to grow and be even better as time goes on. Yes, I will have to change, too.

Now back to Momma and the Grandbabies. You look in the back of my car and you are bound to see boxes of Pampers and Depends along with two different styles of walkers. That is another big change. So fellow Lions, join with me and make the best of theses changing times.

DG Randy



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2014-2015

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