

District 49A District Governor's Message

Dear Fellow Lions,

I am honored to serve as your District Governor for the 2016-2017 year. I appreciate all you do and together we will do our best to meet the goals I have set for this year. My focus will be on retaining members, gaining new members, forming a Veterans club, and the purchase of a Leader Dog for someone in need. I would like to obtain two new clubs before my term ends and not lose any clubs. Our International President's theme is "*New Mountains to Climb*". It will take all of us to accomplish this task.

It is so exciting to be a part of our **Centennial Year!** Get involved in the Centennial Projects. Part of this year's contest will be participating in a Centennial project.

Leadership in your clubs is paramount to keeping and ensuring your club is strong. I want to encourage all clubs to have your GLT (Joy Blackburn) out to your clubs at least once during the year. Additionally, I encourage your membership to attend Forums, Mid-Winter Conference and MD Convention where training is provided.

Membership is down. We all need to work on not only retaining members but gaining new members. This will take a concentrated effort on all our parts. I am working on a plan for our membership contest this year that will encourage and inspire you to bring in new members and retain current membership. Make your meetings welcoming, interesting and fun so people return. Have a new membership orientation so new members will feel a part of your club and understand what Lionism is about. Encourage them to get involved on projects. I encourage you to use the GMT at least once during the year. Just Ask!!!

Leos are an important part of gaining new members and training new lions. I also hope to add a new Leo club before the end of my term. It takes a lot of work to run a Leo club. As an advisor for many years, I will ensure you have the knowledge you need to make that happen. Let's mold the minds of our youth and get them interested in serving their community.

Lions is an amazing organization of such dedicated people who serve their communities worldwide. I am honored to be a part of such a great organization. I appreciate what all of you already are doing to promote Lionism, and will continue to do so in the future.

Yours in Lionism,

Karen Burns

Time to Inspire

District Governor 2016/2017

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