

JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER FOR 9 NC  
By DG Kristin Buehner

My Fellow Lions,

Happy New Year to you! As we turn the calendar to 2015, let us be prepared to tackle the exciting challenges that await us. What an incredible opportunity we have for improving and strengthening our clubs and the Lions organization as a whole. Our goal ultimately is to improve the lives of the people in District 9 North Central, the state of Iowa and the world.

Membership. Yes, we need to think about what we can do not only to increase membership, but also to retain the members we have. We must think of ways our clubs can make sure all our members are feeling appreciated and important to the group. Are we assigning each member a role within the club? Are we finding ways to make club activities more fun? Is it time to plan a social outing where members can just gather in a relaxed setting to get to know each better?

January 13. Please remember that January 13 is the birthday anniversary of our founder, Melvin Jones. Born in 1879, he would be 136 this birthday. Although he was born in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, his ideas regarding service and his vision for our Lions Clubs are timeless. International President Joe Preston suggests that there is no better way to honor Melvin Jones than for clubs to conduct a special service project. Is there something new your club could do the week of January 13, or anytime within the month of January, that emphasizes service to your community? It need not be a large project, just something new. Some of us could help with Meals on Wheels or Community Kitchen. We can all be thinking of ways to remember the elderly, the disabled or the poor in our communities

with a needed service. Our church clergy may know of ways to lend a hand to those in need. This project may end up being something your club will want to do every year. Secretaries, be sure to report the project on MyLCI website. Participating clubs can earn a Centennial Banner Patch. Be sure to take photos of your service projects and share them with me for our District 9NC website and state newsletter. Lions International has set January 10-16 as the Worldwide Week of Service to serve with Lions around the world and showcase our clubs in our communities. A goal has been set of completing 100 million hours of service worldwide from now through December 2017, the year of Lions Centennial anniversary.

Remember that Melvin Jones' vision was for a purely service club. We aren't in it for the money or the prestige. We are inspired only by love of our fellow man. That applies to our fellow Lions, those in our own clubs and in other Lions clubs, too. It makes me so happy to hear reports of clubs working together, socializing together or simply getting to know each other better. We are one in our mission. We are all in this together.

As District Governor, it has been my privilege to meet many of you through my official club visits. I have many clubs to visit yet. Please contact me to arrange a visit, if you have not already. You can reach me at 641-424-9631 or [kbuehner15@hotmail.com](mailto:kbuehner15@hotmail.com). I have learned first-hand that we have many great people in this organization, people who give of themselves and ask for nothing in return. It is impossible to thank you enough for what you are doing in the name of Lionism. Please know that your club is aware and your community is aware of the qualities that set each one of you apart. So many of your clubs have proven themselves invaluable to your communities. That is the goal for which all of us must strive.

A final reminder: Please make reservations to attend all or part of

the Mid-Winter Lions Leadership Conference Jan. 8-10 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines. We want to make a good showing of Lions from 9NC.

If your club has not made up a theme basket for the Mid-Winter Theme Basket Silent Auction, or contributed \$25 to \$50 to have one made up in your name, please do so if you can. Let me know if you need help delivering the basket to the Conference. Checks to have one made up can be made out to me, Kristin Buehner, as I'll be helping assemble the baskets. My address is 645 9<sup>th</sup> St. N.E., Mason City, IA 50401. Money raised from the sale of these baskets is donated to the support of the Iowa Lions Foundation.

I thank you for your service to Lions and wish you all the best in the New Year!

District Governor Kristin Buehner