

October 2011

Dear District Leo Club Chairperson:

Thank you for accepting the position of district Leo chairperson! As a Leo chairperson you are an important member of your district's Lions Opportunities for Youth (LOFY) Committee and will have many opportunities to encourage Lions to guide young people through the Leo Club Program.

You may already be aware of the many resources available for Lions and Leos involved in the program. However, some of these resources are outlined below, as many have changed with the introduction of the new Leo brand and the two-track Alpha/Omega approach. In addition, this letter will provide a few more items of interest that we hope will prove helpful during your tenure as a Leo chairperson.

Online Resources:

The Leo Zone section on the Lions Web site, www.lionsclubs.org, is the primary online resource about Leo clubs and features a section just for chairpersons. To find the Leo Zone, simply enter "Leo Zone" in the upper right-hand corner of the Lions home page, and you will be directed to a link where you can quickly access Leo-related information.

In addition, many Leo Club Program publications can be found on the Lions Web site. To find Leo publications, select "Member Center" and click on "Resources" and then "Publications". You can also order publications from the Youth Programs Department for a small fee by using the enclosed order form.

Areas of Interest:

As you set your goals for the year, you are encouraged to focus on four important areas:

1. Nurturing the future of Lions Clubs International by involving Leos in all that you do;

As part of International President Wing-Kun Tam's Theme for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, districts will be encouraged to believe in and take action to strengthen our membership, caring for fellow members as if they are family. Leos are the future of our organization and therefore they form a vital branch of our family tree. You can enhance the Leo to Lion Program by engaging Leos to gain their perspective, solicit their ideas and better understand their needs.

2. Strengthening the existing Leo clubs in your district;

To help you assess the number of active Leo clubs in your district, we encourage you to use the improved Leo Club Locator found on the Lions Web site. Simply go to the Lions home page at www.lionsclubs.org, click on "Find a Club" and choose "Leo Club Locator". You can then search for Leo clubs by district, state or country. If you find a club listed that you know is no longer active, we encourage you to contact the president of the sponsoring Lions club to advise him/her to officially cancel the Leo club in question.

To facilitate the revitalization and strengthening of the Leo clubs in your district, consider conducting a workshop for district Lions and Leos in leadership positions.

3. Organizing new Leo clubs;

To support the organization of new Leo clubs and encourage Lions clubs to sponsor a Leo club, there are a number of resources available from the Youth Programs Department including a newly-designed brochure explaining the benefits of sponsoring a Leo club, as well as a PowerPoint presentation about the history of the Leo Club Program and the many benefits of sponsoring a Leo club. Both can be found on the Lions Web site in either the Leo Zone or the Resources/Publications section.

4. Helping Leos who are approaching the upper age limit (18 for Alphas and 30 for Omegas) determine whether they are interested in continuing their service with Lions Clubs International as a member of a Lions club.

To encourage graduating Leos to become Lions, the association offers the Leo to Lion Program. Information about this program can be found on the Lions Web site. Simply type in "Leo to Lion Program" in the search bar at the upper right-hand corner of the home page, and you will be directed to a link with all the program details. For your convenience, the Leo to Lion Certification and Years of Service Transfer Form (LL-2) is also enclosed.

Leo Districts:

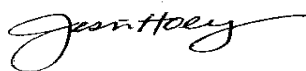
Lions districts that have six or more Leo clubs are eligible to form a Leo district organization under the guidelines of the Leo District Constitution found in Chapter 23 of the Board Policy Manual. As district Leo chairperson, you play an important role as the advisor to the Leo district council and as the official liaison between the Lions district cabinet and the Leo district council. For a Leo district to be officially recognized by International Headquarters and receive officer pins, the Annual Leo District/Multiple District Officer Report form (Leo 91) must be submitted to the Youth Programs Department. To download the Leo 91 form from the Lions Web site, click on "Member Center" and then "Resources".

Communications:

To help you coordinate your district's Leo activities, the Youth Programs Department will communicate important deadlines, resources and additional information via post and/or e-mail throughout the year. However, if we can assist you or provide additional information regarding the Leo Club Program at anytime, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Youth Programs Department can be reached at leo@lionsclubs.org or (630) 571-5466.

Best wishes for a successful year.

Sincerely,



Jessica Hoey, Manager
Youth Programs Department

Enclosures