



LEADER NETWORK



MAY 2006

MERL: TEAMWORK FOR GROWTH

The MERL program was designed to encourage membership, extension, retention and leadership development chairpersons to work as a team with the common goal of furthering membership quality and growth. The significance of this unique program has been recognized as evidenced by the support of our International Board of Directors.

Recent efforts to enhance the current MERL program, all with a theme of MERL: TEAMWORK FOR GROWTH, include:

- updated job descriptions with a focus on teamwork
- establishment of an optional position of MERL team coordinator to provide support and promote communication and collaboration among MERL team members
- development of a new MERL team manual encompassing M-E-R-L and effective teamwork
- creation of a new MERL team e-newsletter
- redesigned MERL Chairpersons Seminar curriculum to better address local needs
- International Convention seminar

MERL continues to be the foundation of all of our membership development and growth programs. Recent enhancements to the program including a more flexible structure, increased communication and support, and innovative tools and resources will help you to maximize its effectiveness.

Remember, good teamwork divides the tasks, but multiplies the success!

MERL Appointment Reminder

New three-year MERL terms for Constitutional Areas I (USA, its affiliates Bermuda & the Bahamas), Constitutional Area II (Canada) and Constitutional Area IV (Europe) will begin July 1, 2006. All MERL chairperson applications for the 2006-2009 term are due to LCI by May 15, 2006.



Lions Learning Center

Active Lions members are called on to work in conjunction with others in a variety of settings.

Our clubs, committees, and projects all require teamwork skills if we are to be effective.

Our LCI course will help us better understand the characteristics of effective teams, the stages of team development, how team leaders can support their teams, and how to utilize effective methods of decision-making to keep the team moving forward and the team members motivated.

You'll find assessment tools for evaluating your own team, tips for team leaders, and interesting activities you can use to motivate and energize your own Lions teams.

Watch for "Effective Teams" in the Lions Learning Center!

Visit the Lions Learning Center at

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/resources_learning_center.shtml

A Message from the Chairperson...

One of the most powerful teams I ever had the privilege of participating in was responsible for the safe shipboard operations of aircraft to and from our ship in all weather - a life impacting team in which each member had a designated role to play and a responsibility to each other to perform.

We believed and relied on each other because we were well trained and knew what was expected of us in every possible emergency. There was no room for error, but we did not shy from our part in this high performing team. Quite the reverse - we thrived on it and for over two years responded to many emergencies and came through strong.

The reason we were successful? Simple really. All of the base elements were present from the outset. We had great training, we exercised regularly in events that might or might not happen, we stayed current and were always seeking best practice. But above all, we had complete faith and trust in those we worked with and friends, we believed in the key team maker - We worked hard and played hard TOGETHER!

How strong is your Team?

Cliff Heywood

International Director

*2005-2006 Leadership Committee Chairperson
New Zealand*

Training Tool: What if?

Use a What if? question/scenario to role play teamwork and as a basis for discussing how well you work together as a team. For example, ask the group to discuss this scenario: *What if our Lions club wanted to buy a clubhouse instead of paying meeting facility rental fees each month? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of owning a clubhouse. What would you, as the club board, recommend to the club?* Appoint one person to be an observer.

Ask the observer to compare the team's actions to the stages of team development: forming, storming, norming and performing to identify the stage of team development that is most frequently observed. Discuss how effective the team was on team member participation, feedback to each other, handling conflict, risk taking, and leadership.

MER Newsletter Links

Membership/Retention - News & Notes

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/news_notes.pdf
Extension News

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/extnl.pdf>



MORE





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Senior Lions Leadership Institutes

The Senior Lions Leadership Institute program provides present and future Lions leaders the opportunity to enhance their skills through lecture and discussion, sharing ideas, successes and challenges with fellow Lions along the way.

Eligible participants are Lions in good standing who have completed a successful term as club president, but have not yet attained the level of vice district governor. Applications for each institute will be provided to district governors and posted on the LCI website four months prior to the start of each institute.

Encourage qualified Lions to take advantage of this valuable leadership development opportunity – promote leadership excellence and ensure a bright future for our association!

2006-2007 SENIOR LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTES (dates and locations subject to change)

CONSTITUTIONAL AREA	United States Of America, Its Affiliates, Bermuda & The Bahamas Canada	South America, Central America, Mexico & Islands Of The Caribbean Sea	Europe	The Orient & Southeast Asia	India, South Asia, Africa & The Middle East	Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia & The Islands Of the South Pacific Ocean
	September 17-21, 2006 Columbus, Ohio, USA	January 11-15, 2007 Cochabamba, Bolivia	October 13-17, 2006 Bournemouth, United Kingdom	November 7-11, 2006 Penang, Malaysia	December 4-8, 2006 New Delhi, India	April 16-20, 2007 Invercargill, New Zealand



Leadership Seminars

The 89th International Lions Clubs Convention will take place in Boston, Massachusetts, USA from June 30 through

July 4, 2006. This year, the Leadership Division offers three interesting and unique seminars:

MERL: Teamwork for Growth

Saturday, July 1, 3:30pm - 5:00pm

How effective is your MERL team? The MERL program is a valuable tool in enhancing membership quality and growth. Learn more about the structure and focus of MERL, as well as strategies for making your MERL team successful, from representatives of effective MERL teams from around the world. (Presented in collaboration with the Extension & Membership Division of LCI.)

The Leadership Exchange

Sunday, July 2, 1:30pm - 4:00pm

Looking for something new and exciting? Share ideas, challenges and success stories with fellow Lions in this fast-paced interactive session. Join ten experienced Lions leaders in a series of small group roundtable discussions on a variety of valuable leadership topics.

Role of an International Director

Monday, July 3, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Interested in knowing more about Lions Clubs International leadership. Explore the process of selection, qualifications, and responsibilities of an international director, along with the competencies and personal image required of those who aspire to the office.

And don't forget to stop by the LCI Headquarters booth on the convention floor to meet your Leadership Division staff!



Bright Idea Multiple District 305, Pakistan, hosted a Regional Lions Leadership Institute at the end of March, and is proud to report 156 enthusiastic participants.

To maintain participants' energy and enthusiasm throughout the institute, a strong emphasis was placed on interactive instructional tools. Hands-on activities enhanced the level of involvement and excitement among the participants, improving the understanding and retention of information.

Dr. Humayun Rashid, Past Council Chairperson MD-305, reported, "We wanted to impart a skill by doing it, rather than just listening to a lecture or a presentation."

Remember the Chinese proverb – "Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand."

We want to hear from you!

Our objective with *The LEADER NETWORK* is to provide you, our multiple and single district leadership development chairpersons, with information and ideas you can use in your leadership development efforts. If you have a Bright Idea, suggestions for future issues or a specific topic you would like to see addressed in the next issue (August 2006), please let us know. Your comments will be welcomed at leadership@lionsclubs.org.

*"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."
Henry Ford*

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