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Greetings to all the Lions, Leos, and Lionesses in District 9SE.

I look forward to a great year of service with District 9SE. "Countless Stars...Countless lives touched by Lions" is a theme I will use. I was inspired one night looking up at the stars as I was preparing to return home after a LIONS event.

We need to be sure that we are serving the needs of the people in our communities, state, and around the world. Emphasis this year will be on SERVICE, Club Excellence (are we meeting the needs of our members) with a look at making sure we meet the needs within our communities and adding maybe a Lions club where there are unmet needs for the people.

Oskaloosa Lions club has chartered with 28 members. It exemplifies what a modern day club should look like. There are at least 7 couples, 9 other women, several young people, and at least 1 Lion who has had another member of their family in Lions previously. Debbie Doty is their new president. A big thanks to Guiding Lions DG Boyd Sparks and PDG Chuck Boeding from Montezuma Lions for their work to get the club off the ground. These 2 guiding Lions will continue to work with Oskaloosa. Montezuma Lions though not in District 9SE is the sponsoring club for the new Oskaloosa club. The Montezuma Lions club had been sponsored by the Oskaloosa Lions club of the past and they in turn wanted to reciprocate. Remember, one great Iowa Lion, Warren Coleman, had been a member of the past Oskaloosa Lions Club. District 9SE is now 59 clubs strong, WOW!

IowaKidSight celebrated its 10th anniversary. At this time around 180,000 children have had their vision screened. It has grown into the state's largest service project. This Lion year Marvin Klebe from the Lone Tree Lions club is the coordinator of IowaKidSight for District 9SE. Call Marvin to get a camera for your screenings at 319-629-4620. Lori Short and Alan Olson can aid clubs to get trained to do the screenings. The new Oskaloosa club will have Lions trained for IowaKidSight in the very near future. These screenings identify a problem at a very early age that could save the child's sight. When a parent is assured their child's vision is okay it is probably a feeling of relief.

On a sad note, Dr. Ron Good of Morning Sun passed away in early June. He had served District 9SE as Chaplain. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

A Lion like you and I consist of a person with a caring heart with 2 capable hands to serve. International President Sid Scruggs wants us to be a Beacon of Hope to persons in need. Serving others is what Lions is all about. There is always a friend, neighbor, or perhaps stranger across an ocean that needs a helping hand. The LIONS acronym has stood for Loyalty, Intelligence, Our, Nations, Safety. President Scruggs would like for us to think of this in a little different way...Loving Individuals Offering Needed Service. There are 4 special events to consider undertaking in this new Lion year. In August Lions could do something to help the youth, in October concentrate efforts to help prevent blindness and consider a new signature service for your Lions to do, in December, President Scruggs would like each Lion club to combat hunger, and lastly in April initiate a program with emphasis on our environment.

Thank you all for the generous giving of yourself to help others with special needs. Modern inventions have made everyday living easier, but health issues, disasters and rough economic times can really have devastating effects on people. Lions make a difference and bring relief and great joy.

Congratulations to Joel Schillerstrom and Dave Ispen honored by the Lone Tree Lions Club with Warren Coleman awards.

Donnellson Lions helped a 10-year old girl get a digital receiver for the cochlear implant she received at 18 months. Fort Madison Lions and Keokuk Lions assisted Donnellson in raising \$1000.00 for this child's needs. Donnellson Lions also gave a \$300.00 scholarship to a graduating senior for books at college.

Melcher-Dallas Lions welcomes new member Susan Mikesell.

Alan Olson, our Information technologist is happy to share details about your activities on 9SE's website. Contact him at aolson@iowatelecom.net. Consider giving your neighboring club a hand or just show up for some family fun.

Members of 9SE cabinet are Mark Songer as 1st Vice District Governor, DeEtta Rasmussen as 2nd Vice District Governor, Frosty Van Voorst and Paul Hain are our Iowa Lion Trustees, Alan Olson as Information Technologist and Public Relations chair, PDG Gene Haile as Public Relations chair, Marvin Klebe will be the coordinator for IowaKidSight within 9SE and Environment chair, Patricia Grover as Diabetes Awareness chair, Ivan Roth and Sherrie Reed as chairs for Leader Dogs for the Blind, Virginia Schneider as Peace Poster chair, Elsie Roth as Sight Conservation Chair, Women and Family chairperson is Mary Brown, District chaplain is Linda Leonard, LCIF Chairperson PDG Richard Turner, Retention Chairperson is Larry Howe, Nominating Committee chairperson PDG Richard Turner, Youth Exchange Chairperson Junior Williams, Care and Share chairperson 1st VDG Mark Songer, R1Z1 chairperson Larry Howe, R1Z2 Chairperson Mark Songer, R2Z1 chairperson Ken Haselhuhn, PDG Rules Committee Bob Brown, Honorary Cabinet Members PID Delmar Brown and PID Dave Stoufer, Secretary/Treasurer Renee Quinn and PDG Randy Burton.

District 9SE Zones changed a little:

R1Z1 Albia, Corydon, Centerville, Blakesburg, Moulton Lions, Moulton Lioness—Larry Howe

R1Z2 Agency, Batavia, Ottumwa Noon, Ottumwa Evening, Packwood, Richland, Fremont—Mark Songer

R1Z3 Birmingham, Fairfield, Stockport, Keosauqua, Milton, Lockridge

R2Z1 Knoxville, Leighton, Melcher-Dallas, Oskaloosa, Pella, Pleasantville Lions, Pleasantville Lioness—Ken Haselhuhn

R2Z2 Brighton, Kalona Lioness, Sigourney, Washington, West Chester, What Cheer

R2Z3 Iowa City Host, Lone Tree, North Liberty, Marengo, Victor, Williamsburg, Oxford

R3Z1 Ainsworth, Columbus Junction, Crawfordsville, Grandview-Letts, Olds, Wayland

R3Z2 Danville, Mediapolis, Morning Sun Lions, Morning Sun Lioness, Mount Pleasant, New London, Winfield

R3Z3 Fort Madison, Burlington Leo, Burlington Noon, Donnellson, Keokuk, Waco Leo, West Burlington

IowaKidSight NEEDS YOU! Screeners are needed at the Iowa Lions booth at the Iowa State Fair from August 12th to the 22nd. Two screeners are needed for each 3-hour period. A free admission ticket is provided to each screener. Contact Lori Short at 319-626-6549 or lori-short@uiowa.edu to schedule times you can help out. Some shifts are filled. check with Lori. **Please take note Gary Fry also needs Lions to work in the state fair booth.**

Order your Peace Poster kits now. This is a fun way to introduce young people to an act of serving through art. Their parent might become a Lion or they might be the next generation of Leos or Lions.

I want to get several club visits planned before the snow flies. Please contact me to get your visit scheduled. Lions International has incorporated a District Governor team. You will see 1st VDG Mark Songer and 2nd VDG DeEtta Rasmussen at cabinet meetings and aiding with extension and retention and with me sometimes for official club visits. They may occasionally take my place at a meeting. Please welcome them as you would me.

Mark and I spent many hours in our car returning home from Lions events sharing the excitement of Lions. His memory is always with me. Though he is no longer at my side, his LION SPIRIT is always in my heart.

Please inform me of your special events, recognitions, and donations throughout the year. I would love to put them in the Iowa Lion. If my calendar allows this gives me an opportunity to come and work at your side.

Governor's calendar:

July: Official visits July 13 Knoxville Lions Club and July 14 Victor Lions Club Cabinet meeting July 31
August: Council meeting August 6 & 7 August 12-18 family vacation August 21 & 22 Lions Fair Booth
Official visit August 23 New London
September: Official visits Sept. 14th Fairfield and Sept. 16th Packwood & Richland
USA/Canada Forum Sept. 23-25