

October 2016 Report to MD6 Council from District 6SE

DG Cathy Valenzuela

Best news first: Our PDG Association has been hard at work contacting all eligible Lions to fill our 1st VDG and 2nd VDG positions. And, thanks to PDG Eileen Sanderson, I'm happy to report we may be able to appoint two Lions to those positions very soon!

We have also recently confirmed that PDG Monty Whitney has agreed to be the GMT coordinator for the remainder of this Lions year, a position that opened up when Lion Terry Sullivan moved out of state.

Our first cabinet meeting was held on August 22nd, and hosted by the Olney Springs Lions. 11 clubs were represented by 26 Lions. In keeping with my theme of 'Service. Everywhere. Everyday.' I asked that all Lions attending the meeting bring school supplies to support the Olney Springs Lions in their school supply drive benefiting Youth - the Centennial Service Challenge service area for August. Our Lions, as always, were very generous in their support. We had a service project and fundraising project brainstorming session following our reports. And we awarded two tickets to the Security Lions Camp Benefit Banquet to four clubs that were eligible in a drawing by sending representatives to the meeting.

As requested by the Calhan Lions who will be hosting our 2nd cabinet meeting on November 5th, we will have a demonstration by Leader Dogs for the Blind in recognition of the Centennial Service Challenge area of Sight. We will also have a presentation on Millennials and philanthropy and a short Your Club, Your Way session after our reports.

I have visited 15 of our 29 clubs already, and the remaining 14 are scheduled to be visited before mid-December. On my visits I've been discussing our consolidated convention, redistricting, and celebrating the Centennial. I think our Lions appreciate the Centennial service suggestions I give them, and the reminders about why they should be proud to be Lions! They also are very pleased to sign the Centennial banner which will be taken to the Lions International Convention in Chicago next June.

We held a zone chairman training on October 1st, with 5 of 6 zones represented. Their assignment for the year was to find their own replacement! And they will also be highlighting one of the clubs in their zone at each cabinet meeting by bringing that club's representatives and giving them an award. This encourages attendance by those who would not otherwise attend.

One other focus area of the Lions year so far has been communication. I have a fantastic Public Relations and Information chairman who keeps our district website and Facebook page up to date and looking good at all times. <http://e-district.org/sites/6se/> and <https://www.facebook.com/District6SE/> It helps that I always ask the clubs I visit to pose with a Centennial banner and get lots of photos to put on our pages.

USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum was educational and fun. We were all thrilled to learn that LCI was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and attend the many seminars. Some of my favorites were about redistricting, collaboration with community partners, and millennials and philanthropy.

Redistricting is the main topic of discussion with the 6SE Lions. Though I believe it is intellectually a good idea, I'm finding very little support from the clubs of 6SE. Only one person has said flat out that they support the idea. Most don't say much, or ask questions that indicate they are against the redistricting. Our cabinet will vote to place the merger on the ballot at our next cabinet meeting. I plan to take an email poll before that day in order to vote as the district prefers.

Respectfully submitted,

DG Cathy Valenzuela