



"Sia the POSSIBILITIES"



Volume 1

District 23-B

July, 2010

Hello from the "Land Down Under"!

Sydney is an unbelievable city and things are going well. I wanted to make sure you get my first newsletter in a timely fashion and my acceptance speech for DGE delivered at State Convention in April. I am very excited about this year and am looking forward to working with everybody on our **DREAM TEAM (our District).**

Fellow Lions, it is my pleasure and honor to be elected as District 23B Governor. As a child I grew up in Iran. I had two dreams. After watching Neil Armstrong walk on the Moon, I wanted to be the first man to walk on Mars -- that remains to be seen! My second wish was to come to America and here I am. I feel very lucky and blessed to live in the greatest country in the world. I joined the South Windsor Lions Club in 1993. I have served in many capacities including President in 1994. I also chaired our biggest fundraiser, our golf tournament, for many years. It took me a short while to learn about Lionism. In 2004 Carolyn Messier asked me to serve in her cabinet. She has been a great friend and a wonderful mentor. I thank Carolyn as I have learned so much from her. In fact I believe she is the reason why I am standing before you today. I believe I am a great doer. Just like the commercial says, "just do it." And as someone told me a long time ago, don't tell me what you can do – show me.

I would like to congratulate our current governors for the hard work and excellent job they have done. I have learned so much from our current governor, Dave. He is a great listener. Sometimes we all talk more than we listen, but then I remember there is a reason why God gave us one mouth and two ears!

I am proud to be part of Lions International, one of the most prestigious charity organizations in the world. In my opinion we need to improve in three areas – **membership, publicity and education.**

I have introduced 4 new members to our club in South Windsor this year. I did this by telling them about what we do as Lions, answering their questions and then asking them to join. It is as simple as that. Yet I'm amazed when people tell me that it's not that simple. Or they tell me they cannot ask. My answer to them is how could anybody tell you no when you tell them about your blindfolded walk experience with a Fidelco Guide Dog? How can anybody tell you no when you tell them how many people in their communities were treated by Lions Low Vision Centers? How can anybody tell you no when you tell them what CRIS Radio and CLERF do? How can anybody tell you no when you tell them how many people all over the world have been given the gift of sight by Lions International?

Publicity: We need to get the word out. Who we are, what we do, not just in your immediate communities, but all over the world through media, magazines, local publications and word of mouth. We cannot afford to stay quiet.

Education: In my opinion every Lion after being a member for one year should know about Fidelco, Lions Low Vision, LCIF, CRIS Radio, and CLERF. This is how we reduce the number of membership losses. My fellow Lions the future is here and now; I believe our future is bright. In fact when I think about the future, I CAN CERTAINLY **“SIA THE POSSIBILITIES”!!**

Sia Dowlatshahi, Governor

SPECIAL CONVENTION – JULY 11, 2010

Delegates and Alternates are urged not to forget the Special Convention on July 11th at Camp Happy Hill in Unionville. The purpose of this convention is to endorse the candidacy of PCC Carolyn Messier for International Director. Certification of delegates begins at 8:00 AM. Voting starts at 9:45 AM. Come and show your support.

IMPORTANT DATES IN JULY AND AUGUST

Saturday, July 10th – Lions Club of Harwinton Concert for Sight

Sunday, July 11th - Special Convention

Monday, August 2nd - First Cabinet Meeting

Monday, August 9th - CLERF Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, August 16th - MD-23 Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 25th - New Britain Lions Club Golf Tournament

Monday, August 30th - Low Vision Board of Directors Meeting



2010-2011 International theme: A Beacon of Hope

We need to be a “Beacon of Hope” and “shine a light “on our motto “We Serve.” With recent economic crises, as well as global natural, and man-made disasters ‘hands on’ service has become increasingly important. More than ever before there are people in need, people who need Lions. There are also people who are looking for meaning in their life and who would like to spend their time in service.

*Sid L. Scruggs, III
International President*