

## WEBSTER LIONS DONATE TO TALKING TAPES/TEXTBOOKS ON TAPE

The Lions Club of Webster Groves recently contributed \$1,500.00 to Talking Tapes/Textbooks on Tape, according to Kevin Fears, Club President of the Webster Lions. Fears also noted that this year's donation continues several decades of annual financial support which the Webster Lions have provided to Talking-Tapes.

"We are proud to maintain our long tradition of assistance of the important services provided locally and nationwide by Talking Tapes," said Webster Lions President Fears. "Talking Tapes has been a vital resource for many years in serving the needs of the blind and visually impaired. The Webster Lions are excited and supportive, too, of services undertaken by Talking Tapes to provide materials to schools and students to help in overcoming learning disabilities."

When accepting the donation from the Webster Lions to Talking Tapes, Executive Director Diane Schuch indicated that the funds would be applied immediately to an outreach educational program to be developed through Talking Tapes at

Avery Elementary Grade School in the Webster Groves School District. According to Ms. Schuch, Talking Tapes will provide a variety of books on tape as well as professional instruction in order to assist school children with reading problems and learning disabilities. The recent donation from the Webster Lions will enable Talking Tapes to begin immediately to furnish school books on tape and initial in-service training for teachers and librarians at Avery School.

Chartered in 1925, the Lions Club of Webster Groves has contributed more than \$1.5 million during the past seventy-four (74) years to a wide range of worthwhile purposes including eyesight research, assistance to needy families, support of youth sports programs, college scholarships for deserving high school students, and donations to groups such as Talking Tapes. The fundraising activities of the Webster Groves Lions Club annually include a two-day "May-Fest" Barbecue, a multi-day Carnival & Barbecue over the July 4th holiday and Lions Clubs "Candy Days" in the autumn.



**The Louisiana Lions Club Honors Members** - Louisiana Lions Club members Chester Loesing (left) and Don Patrick recently were honored for their dedication to Lions. Loesing received a plaque for 20 years of service and Patrick received a plaque for 25 years of service. Loesing has been active in delivering glasses and donations to the Lions Eye Bank, currently serves on the Louisiana club's Sight Conservation Committee, and often takes a leadership role in club service and community activities. Patrick is a Past President of the Louisiana club (I 986) and a Past District Governor of Lions District I -G in Illinois. He was a charter member of the Pontoon Beach (Granite City, 111.) Lions Club in 1973 and was elected president of the club in 1976. Patrick transferred his membership when he moved to Louisiana in 1985. He was honored with a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award by the Pontoon Beach club during its 20th charter anniversary in 1993.

## REDISTRICTING

Thoughts by IPID Dr. Dwayne Garrett

The vote on the redistricting of our multiple at the state convention, April 30th - May 2nd, is one that will affect all Lions for many years to come. Passage or failure of the issue is not the end of the matter.

If it passes, the requirements for number of clubs and members in each sub-district will be met. Hopefully then we would not have another transitional sub-district again. The membership problem in multiple 26 would be over. It could disrupt some closeness of the clubs in a sub-district that now exists as they are moved to another sub-district. The work of the District Governor would increase due to the increased number of clubs in each sub-district. Is redistricting just a stop-gap approach to the problem of membership loss or is it truly a long term solution?

If it fails and we stay with the same number of sub-districts, then we have to wonder what will happen as the officers and board of directors work with the problem of transitional districts. Do we charge our multiple long range planning committee to come up with another solution? Do we really take "the bull by the horns" and get membership in the transitional districts above the 1250 members, in 35 clubs.

There are many more pro's and con's than we can list here. I'm not trying to influence your thinking with this short article, but I am trying to make each Lion aware of the IMPORTANCE OF THE VOTE. You need to discuss the ramifications in your club, your sub-district and at the multiple convention. Vote your conscience, but regardless of the outcome remember --- We are ALL LIONS and whether we agree or disagree with the vote WE MUST SUPPORT IT, and we must not undermine the outcome of the vote. That is the democratic way, the right way, and the Lions way.

## MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS 1998-99

These figures are provided by Lions International as of January 31, 1999, to show each district's status to date for 1998-'99.

A1	45 clubs	0 Club	1,692 Lions	- 11
A2	39	0	1,152	+11
B	40	0	1,810	- 40
C	47	0	1,410	- 44
D	36	0	1,267	- 29
E	41	0	1,135	- 31
F	49	- 1	1,359	- 31
G	33	+1	865	+31
H	37	0	1,191	- 51
I	42	0	1,401	- 14
J	35	0	1,130	+ 7
MD-26	444	0	14,412	- 202

Remember, March 31, was the deadline to sponsor that 5th new member for the Door Knob Award. The counting period started April 1, 1998. PDG Bob Crump, MDMC Missouri (26)