



MISSOURI LION



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A message to the Lions of Multiple District 26 - Missouri from Dr. Dwayne Garrett, Past International Director

I am actively seeking the endorsement of the Lions of Missouri for the office of Second Vice President of Lions Clubs International.

Missouri Lion editor, P. D. G. Chris Clinton, asked me to tell why MD-26 should work for and support a candidate for the office of Second Vice President. I believe any Lion could come up with sound logic for this effort, and I realize there are many more reasons than what I will talk about in this article.

The first thing that comes to mind is pride. Missouri is a strong lionistic multiple. We number 14,000+ members and out of the last two years one ended with a net gain in membership. I believe that we have many things to be proud of with the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation, the All Star Football Game, our State Band, and our support of other projects which have helped communities and individuals throughout the state and world. We are proud of our leadership in the state, both past and present. To add the office of Second Vice President would stimulate more pride in our members as we talk to other Lions and non lions. Pride like many things needs to have stimulus to sustain and bolster it.

What opportunities would come forth by having a Second Vice President? There would be more involvement in many aspects of lionism for our multiple. I believe more Lions would participate in conventions and forums. By having an officer our multiple would be at the front in learning and participating in new and existing programs of our association. This pipeline of information would exist many years past the year of President. As this flow of information continues the opportunity for members to participate would increase at the club, district, state, and international level. The opportunity for all of us to work together to help fulfill our motto "We Serve" would

increase dramatically.

Enthusiasm would increase with this effort. Any Lion who has attended conventions and forums, whether they be district, state, or international knows the fun that is had in the



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hospitality rooms, seminars, and informal gatherings. Any Lion knows the good feeling you get by talking to someone you have never met, but wears the same lapel pin of Lions Clubs International as you. You have seen the fun and excitement with demonstrations and parades. You have seen the enthusiasm shown by Lions when a candidate is being promoted for office. It's catching to others, and it carries on over time. Enthusiasm brings Lions together.

Pride, opportunity, and enthusiasm will help generate membership. Those who are non lions will sense these three things in our Lion

membership. It give us the opportunity to show everyone how we feel about our organization. It gives us an even greater opportunity to ask someone to join. It gives those Lions who are becoming less active and perhaps thinking of quitting a reason to come back.

As I said at the start of this article, there are many reasons for Missouri to support a candidacy for Second Vice President besides the ones talked about here. But I believe that pride, enthusiasm, and opportunity will help membership. The sum total of the four means that we will be more productive as Lions and will carry our "We Serve" motto to greater heights, and we will have fun doing it.

What I ask from you for this candidacy is your vote on Saturday May 6, 2000 at the state convention in Joplin. This requires a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates. I would like letters of support from individual clubs as well as the endorsement of each district cabinet. I thank the Council of Governors for their unanimous endorsement at the October Council meeting. A two-thirds vote is never easy to achieve, so your individual attendance and vote is important. This is an Opportunity, to showcase our Lions Membership, our Pride, our Enthusiasm, to each other and to the First Vice President of Lions Clubs International, Dr. Jean Behar.



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