



We Serve

Your Role in Leadership As a Future District Governor

Time

Commitment

Leadership

Presented by
The Past District Governors Association of 23B
(2007)

Forward

This pamphlet has been written and published by the Past District Governors' Association of District 23B. It is aimed at any Lion who thinks that he or she might someday desire to rise to the high office of District Governor, but has little knowledge of the regulations and methods of achieving that office or the responsibilities and concerns of holding it.

In the pages that follow we will discuss not only the constitutional requirements that must be fulfilled to become a District Governor, but also the financial considerations, time requirements, leadership skills and enhancements, personal relationships, available training, short term and long term commitments and responsibilities, rewards, and the impact a decision to run for Governor may have on your life.

This pamphlet is intended as a guide, and should be read with the understanding that changes along the road are not only possible, but probable and encouraged. The more you know before you start, the better your chances of getting there, and the better governor you will be.

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Constitutional Definition of District Governor

Article IV, Section 1 of the International Constitution classifies a district governor as being an officer of the International Organization. Although the position of district governor is a locally elected position, he or she reports directly to the International President.

Article VI, Section 5(a) further defines the position as follows:

“As an international officer of this association, and under the general supervision of the International Board of Directors, he/she shall represent the association in his/her district. In addition, he/she shall be the chief administrative officer in his/her district and shall have direct supervision over the region chairpersons, the zone chairpersons, the cabinet secretary and cabinet treasurer (or cabinet secretary-treasurer) and such other cabinet members as may be provided for in the respective single, or multiple district constitution and by-laws. His/her specific responsibilities shall be to:

- (1) Further the purposes of this association.
- (2) Supervise the organization of new Lions clubs.
- (3) Promote the Lions Clubs International Foundation and all service activities of
The association.
- (4) Preside, when present, over cabinet, convention and other district meetings.
- (5) Perform such other functions and acts as shall be required of him/her by the
International Board of Directors through the District Governor’s Manual and
other directives.

The District and Multiple District Constitutions and By-Laws add little to the definition above except to require the governor to select and appoint his/her cabinet chairpersons, zone and region chairpersons, cabinet secretary and cabinet treasurer (or secretary-treasurer). As you will see by reading further in this pamphlet, the definitions above only touch the surface of the district governor’s responsibilities. Much of the governor’s day-to-day responsibilities have grown out of traditions within District 23B and out of a desire on the part of those who hold the office to serve the needs of the clubs in the district.

Constitutional Requirements for the Office of District Governor

Article III, Section 4 of the International Association of Lions Clubs By-Laws states:

"A candidate for the office of District Governor shall:

- (a) Be an active member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in good Standing in his/her single or sub-district.
- (b) Secure the endorsement of his/her club or a majority of clubs in his/her Single or sub-district.
- (c) Currently be serving as the Vice District Governor within the district from Which he/she is to be elected."

It is apparent from subsection (c) above that in order to become District Governor; you must first become Vice District Governor. Section 9, paragraph (b) of this same article states:

"A candidate for the office of Vice District Governor shall:

- (1) Be an active member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in good standing in his/her single or sub-district.
- (2) Secure the endorsement of his/her club or a majority of the clubs in his/her single or sub-district.
- (3) Have served or will have served at the time he/she takes office as Vice District Governor
 - (a) As president of a Lions Club for a full term or major portion thereof, and a member of the board of directors of a Lions Club for no less than two (2) additional years; an
 - (b) As a cabinet chairman for a minimum of one year, zone chairperson, region chairperson or cabinet secretary and/or treasurer for a full term or major portion thereof.
 - (c) With none of the above being accomplished concurrently."

Simply put, to become District Governor you must first become Vice District Governor. To become Vice District Governor you must have been president of your club, serve on your club's board of directors for two years, and have been either a zone chairperson, a region chairperson, a cabinet secretary or a cabinet treasurer or cabinet secretary-treasurer for at least one year.

Since it has become virtually automatic that the Vice District Governor will ascend to office of District Governor, a potential candidate for Governor should set his or her sights on becoming Vice District Governor. It is important to understand however, that meeting the minimum constitutional requirements set forth above is far from the total knowledge, experience and preparation necessary to prepare for the position.

Early leadership positions and available training

Lionism offers some of the finest training available in any service or professional organization. If you are thinking about rising in the leadership of our association, the best place to begin your training is at the club level. To do this you must take an active part in as many of your club's projects and activities as possible. Once your club members recognize you as an active member, they will begin to think of you as a potential leader. Chairing a club project or committee is your first step in leadership training. Eventual appointment to a position on your club's board of directors is the next step and will begin your fulfillment of the constitutional requirements for the office of district governor. It will also be of great value in your early training to hold the position of Club Secretary, Treasurer or Membership Chairperson. These positions will give you great insight into the workings of Lionism at the club level.

During this early period of your career in Lionism, formal training is available. District 23B offers "New Member Orientation" courses, usually at least twice a year. While these are generally aimed at members who have just come into the association, they are open to all Lions and offer a wealth of basic information about Lionism at every level. Once a year, the district also puts on a "PSTM" (President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Chairperson) or "Club Officers' Seminar. While this seminar is specifically for incoming club officers, it is open to all Lions and is a good way to learn what the requirements of these offices are.

Lions Clubs International has offered an "Emerging Lions Institute" open to Lions with less than 5 years service who has not yet been President of a Lions club. This institute is currently being regionalized and will be available in the New England area. This has been a three to four day course as offered by LCI but will be somewhat revamped for regional presentation. If you are interested in this course, you must talk to your district governor or district leadership development chairman about securing an opening.

Once you have been president of your club you should be thinking about positions on the governor's cabinet. If you have shown that you are a strong leader within your club you may be asked by the vice district governor to be on his or her cabinet the following year or you may suggest to the vice district governor that you are interested in holding a cabinet position. Achieving a cabinet position will give you the opportunity to visit many clubs in the district and get to know those clubs and the Lions in them. You will need this exposure and personal contact in the future. Your performance in a district cabinet position may also lead to service on, or chairmanship of a multiple district committee. This will give you the opportunity to become familiar with the workings of Lionism at the state level.

At the start of each Lion year the district offers a "Cabinet Officers' School" to train cabinet members in the requirements and performance of their duties. There are also classes offered by the New England Council for Cabinet Treasurers, Secretaries and Vice District Governors.

Once every two years the Multiple district officers the "Train-the-Trainer" program. This is an intense three-day program that as the name implies, is aimed at training Lions to be future trainers in the multiple district. It is open to 18 Lions each session (six from each sub-district) and is a superb way to develop the instructional and presentation skills necessary to be a successful governor.

The "Senior Leadership Institute" is another annual offering by Lions Clubs International. It is usually held immediately before or immediately after the USA/Canada Forum at the Forum location. It is open to one Lion per year from each district selected by the sitting governor.

Early leadership positions and available training (continued)

The Lion selected must have already been a club president but has not been a district governor. The training given in this five-day course is among the finest leadership and people-skills training offered anywhere. All expenses are paid by LCI for the Lion selected except travel to and from the location.

Finally, once you have reached the Governor-Elect position you will be required to attend the "Incoming Governors' School" held each year just prior to the International Convention at the convention site. All expenses for this four to five day course, including travel expenses, are paid by LCI. At this school you will receive the information, programs, requirements and expectations for your year as governor.

In addition to the formal training schools offered at all levels of leadership development, a great deal of information about people skills and the workings of Lionism can be gained from attendance at major Lions functions such as conventions and especially the USA/Canada Forum. This Forum, held each September at a location in the US or Canada is an intense four -day motivational and inspirational experience aimed directly at aspiring Lion leaders. It is open to all Lions and should be considered essential for any Lion on the road to governorship.

Time Commitment

In the years leading up to becoming VDG you may find yourself having to attend zone meetings, meetings of other clubs, cabinet meetings, District 23 council meetings, social events, training seminars and other gatherings, depending upon the path you chose and the appointments you are offered.

As a district governor, you will be out four or five nights per week for many weeks doing club visitations, attending club fund raising events, or taking part in special events in your district or in the multiple districts. There will many telephone hours spent in contact with your cabinet secretary and treasurer, vice district governor, zone chairmen and cabinet members. There will be cabinet meetings, MD23 council meetings, special meetings, conferences, conventions and at some time during the week you will have to fill out reports for LCI and work on your monthly news letter. As mentioned in the forward, this pamphlet is intended as a guide only. There is no time allotment for each event or activity for a district governor. You must realize that the time and effort goes well beyond what can be said in this guide.

As you look ahead to holding the high office of District Governor be aware that you are committing yourself to 5 years or more of active service, consuming time that you did not think you had available. Be honest with yourself, your family, your employer, your Lions club and your Lions district. Be sure that you are able and willing to commit the hours and time away from your present life necessary to be an effective district governor.

Financial Commitment

When thinking about what it may take to become governor, it is all too easy to overlook the financial commitments that accompany this challenge. Indeed, they can be significant.

As you complete your service as president of your club and begin to take on duties at the district and multiple-district level you will find yourself traveling to visit other clubs in your zone, your region, your district, throughout the state, and even beyond. In many cases, not only does the cost of gasoline begin to become a factor, but also the cost of meals at club and district meetings. In some cases, if you are visiting an individual club as a cabinet chairperson, that club may offer to pick up the cost of the meal involved in your visit, but you cannot always count on it. At cabinet meetings, council meetings and committee meetings you will be paying your own way. An average year of this type of service can cost many hundreds of dollars, depending upon the type of cabinet position you hold and the level of service you chose to give.

In a typical year as a cabinet chairman consider the fact that you may be traveling to each of 50 clubs in your district, attending four cabinet meetings, perhaps a few council meetings, and probably a few committee meetings. This does not include the numerous pancake breakfasts, fund-raises and social events of clubs other than your own that you may want to attend if you are serious about getting to know the people in your district and getting them to know you.

When you reach the point that you are ready to announce your intention to run for vice district governor, a new set of costs appears. In many cases, prospective candidates will chose to visit many or all of the clubs in the district to introduce themselves. Once again, travel and meal costs are a factor. It has also become tradition for the vice district governor candidates from the three districts to provide "hospitality" at both the State Convention and the Mid-Winter Conference of their candidacy year. This expense can be significant. This hospitality usually includes offering alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and sometimes food to all convention attendees on two nights of the convention and two nights of the conference. In addition, candidates will traditionally print brochures and placards and provide give-away tokens introducing themselves and announcing their candidacy.

A typical VDG candidacy year can easily cost a candidate in excess of \$3000, but there may be financial assistance available. In many cases, the candidate's club will attempt to pick up as much of the cost as possible. Administrative fund-raisers in support of a clubs candidate are commonplace, and where available, the club administrative fund can be tapped. It is important to remember however, that **ONLY** administrative money can be used in support of this endeavor. It is also important that both you and your club understand all aspects of their support for your candidacy before you formally enter into the candidacy.

The personal cost of your year as vice district governor may depend a great deal on what responsibilities your governor decides to give you. Certainly, you will have some club visitations to make and you will be expected to attend zone and cabinet meetings. In addition, you will also want to attend as many social events, conferences, conventions, forums, etc. as you can during this year. Many governors have said that when you consider all of the travel and meal costs involved, the year as VDG may well be the most expensive year of all. Unfortunately, VDGs receive no reimbursements for any of these expenses.

Financial Commitment (continued)

Fortunately, as governor, the reimbursement picture changes dramatically. The current Lions Clubs International reimbursement program for governors will cover most of your travel and meal costs throughout the year. Most clubs will not charge the governor for meals served during his official visit to the club and will offer complimentary attendance at social and fund raising events. Attendance at the State Convention and the Mid-Winter conference is paid by Council funds as is the governor's attendance and travel to and from the outgoing International Convention of your year. Such costs related to the incoming International convention of your year as governor are reimbursed the accountants' rules of audit, by LCI. Remember however, that most of these reimbursements cover only you and not your spouse.

Many governors chose to have a personal trading pin made up for their year and may also chose to fund all or part of the cost of their friendship banner. While each of these may run over \$1000, it is normal for the governor's club to assist in funding these efforts.

If the rotation of your governorship leads you to become council chairman, you may again face some of the social costs and travel expenses inherent in your year as governor, but the heavy expenses of attendance at conventions and conferences will be paid by Council funds.

While costs vary greatly from year to year and from governor to governor, it is important to understand that if you want to be governor there will be out-of-pocket costs involved. How significant these costs will be to you depends on the support of your club, your individual financial circumstances, and the methods by which you chose to achieve your goals.

Personal Relationships and People Skills

People skills and personal relationships are the most essential assets on the road to the governorship, and yet they are perhaps the most difficult to define and master.

No lion ever became district governor without the assistance of many other Lions. Whether it is a past district governor who can provide guidance in reaching the office, club members who are willing to support your campaign, or district officers who recognize and nurture your potential, the relationships you build and the close friends you make in your early years as a Lion will be your strongest and most essential supporters as you move toward the governorship.

Any past district governor will tell you that at any point in your term of office you may find yourself acting as a referee, an accountant, a mediator, an administrator, a leader, a beggar, and a source of inspiration. To be successful at any one of these traits requires well-developed skills in dealing with people. To be successful at these entire job requirements will take a level of people skills that may seem unobtainable. Only some of these skills can be taught, but fortunately these skills can be gained and improved by conscientious work at the club and district cabinet level. The work you do on committees, as a club officer and as a cabinet chairperson will go a long way toward honing these essential skills.

As you develop these skills and relationships learn the art of self-evaluation. The ability to recognize your own shortcomings will make it possible for you to gather around you people who can compliment and fill out your desire to be a successful district leader.

The art of listening to Lions will go a long way to meeting their needs. Understanding that all Lions are volunteers is the key to developing relationships with all the Lions you meet. If you can lead with enthusiasm and really believe in what you are talking about, then others will follow and commit themselves to giving the extra time that is required to be have a successful year. You have to lead by example because that is what others will observe. That is how they will judge your commitment. People want to be involved in success. As the leader of the district you need to convince them that your team is the winning team

A significant coming together of the people skills you bring to the office of governor and the personal relationships you have made in your early years in Lionism will happen with the selection of your cabinet. If you have developed an ability to see in others the people skills you have developed for yourself, and have made strong friendships with other dedicated Lions, you will find that you will have access to many capable Lions who will serve you and the district well throughout your year as governor.

Running for District Office, Announcement and Campaigning

Now that you have found yourself on the road to becoming the VDG/DG of your district, certain things have to be done. Hopefully, you have already picked a campaign chairman, who may or may not end up as your Cabinet Secretary. A committee of your club members should start six months in advance of your official announcement, to plan for fund-raising events, club visitations and convention activities.

One of the first things the committee should do is to prepare a letter of endorsement from your club, accompanied by a resolution in support of your candidacy, with words such as:

Whereas_____ has been a member of the_____Lions Club since_____ and
Whereas_____ has served in the following offices_____ etc., etc. and
Whereas_____ has served District_____ in the following capacities_____
Now, be it therefore resolved that the_____ Lions Club does hereby endorse the candidacy of
Lion_____ for the high office of Vice District Governor of Lions District_____ for the year
_____.

The club president must sign these documents

These two documents must be mailed to the District Governor at least ten days prior to the fall meeting of the cabinet in the year prior to your candidacy. Both the letter and the resolution will be read at the Cabinet meeting. You will then send copies to members of the District Cabinet and Past District Governors. Club presidents should receive their copies at a later date; usually around the first of January.

This same procedure will be followed the next year at the beginning of your campaign for District Governor

Part of your campaign for Vice District Governor and District Governor will include club visitations to promote your candidacy. This is especially necessary if there is a contest for the office. You and a member of your club, or other club members as your representatives, can call on district clubs using this time to meet the Lions and give a short talk, asking for their support.

Cocktail parties, picnics, pasta nights, etc., including the ever popular hospitality areas at the Mid-Winter Conference and the State Convention are all fund raisers that can help bankroll your campaign, plus providing you with the chance to "meet and greet" your supporters, and outline your plans and proposals.

According to a recent survey of the Past District Governors, the costs for District Governors' campaigns range on average from \$2,000 to \$4,000, although successful campaigns can be run for less. The costs of a campaign can be greatly reduced by donations in the form of raffle prizes, food, and liquid refreshments. Lavish expenditures will not make up for a candidate who does not campaign wisely.

Your year as VDG and forming a Cabinet

A District Governor is only as good as the Cabinet they choose. The members of the Cabinet will be your constant support system. They are the ones that will run your programs. It is impossible to achieve your goals without a strong, motivated, enthusiastic cabinet. You need to be comfortable enough with each of them to discuss your expectations for the year. Will you be able to listen to each other to formulate a cohesive plan to reach the goals you've set?

When you decide to become a candidate, you should get out to the clubs, to the Zone Meetings and don't forget to attend the Cabinet and Multiple District meetings. Become an observer. Watch the dynamics of the Lions in the clubs at meetings and events. Which Cabinet members are showing a level of initiative, enthusiasm and are always present when needed? Which ones are missing in action?

Do other Lions listen when this Lion presents a program? As a Cabinet Chairperson, does he/she really give the support to the current District Governor that you would expect them to give to you? Are they attending seminars, forums, training sessions, conferences and conventions? Are they willing to learn the job?

Have conversations with potential Cabinet members even before you declare that you want to run for Vice District Governor. These conversations should not be to request that they be on your Cabinet, but rather to determine their strengths, interests, and aspirations with regard to serving beyond the club level. During your year as the VDG, these insights will prove invaluable in making good choices. We all have strengths and weaknesses. Find people that enhance your strengths and shore up your weaker areas.

Create a chart of every cabinet position you will need to fill. Consider that there is some positions that are required by LCI, some that are intrinsic to our district and in the process consider any that you might want to add or combine that will enhance your year as governor.

Include on the chart the Vice Governor, Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Treasurer, Region Chairpersons (optional), the number of Zone Chairpersons needed as well as all the other Chairpersons needed.

Under each title, list three potential Lions. No matter how persuasive you are, not everyone will say yes when you ask him or her to serve. You must have a back up plan. If your number one choice declines, move on to number two and so forth. Don't be afraid to be flexible. You may find that although a person declines for the job you are suggesting, they may be interested in another position on the cabinet. Move the names around.

Carry a small notebook with you even before you become the VDG. Write down names and phone numbers of strong Lions. Keep a log of ideas that you find appealing during various events. You may or may not utilize them but at least you won't forget something that could have been quite positive for your year.

Talk to the Past District Governors about Lions that they might see as people to consider. The PDG's have all been where you are and can be very helpful. Remember they all come from different clubs and have many resources to assist you.

Your year as VDG and forming a Cabinet (continued)

You have one year as a District Governor. Make it a positive experience. It is never too early to make plans. By the time you take office, it is too late to complement anything new. If you've thought about being the governor, then you should have thought about the Lions that will be either positively or negatively impacted by that decision. Make your year the best ever. Plan early.

Your year as District Governor

It is July 1st and if you've prepared well, you have already attended the New England DG/VDG School, the MD 23 DG/VDG School, and you have successfully completed District Governor School presented at the site of the International Convention.

At the moment your spouse/significant other removes the ribbon from your badge, your life, as you know it has just changed. First and foremost, your predecessor has just breathed a huge sigh of relief. People address you as "Governor", and you'd better be making plans to give your postal service worker a nice Christmas present due to the huge volume of mail that will suddenly appear at your doorstep.

While at the International Convention, your Cabinet Secretary has mailed out your first District Governor newsletter to the clubs, cabinet and Past District Governors. Hard copies should go out to each president and if possible to the club secretaries on or near the first of the month. Anyone with email addresses can also receive your communications. This is how you set the tone for your year and how you will get the clubs to support all your efforts. Communication is the key to a successful year.

You've been given your membership number and password to access information from the LCI web site about the clubs in your district. Utilize this resource as much as you can. It will be a valuable tool during the year.

Working with your Cabinet Treasurer and the District Finance Chairman, you should have prepared a District budget for presentation at the first Cabinet meeting. This meeting is scheduled by Constitution and Bylaws to be held within 30 days of the International Convention.

Working with a District Directory Chairperson or your Cabinet Secretary, you will be putting the finishing touches on your directory. This means that you have planned your calendar for the entire year, including all the Zone meetings, Cabinet Meetings, CLERF, MD23 Council Meetings, and your District Governor visits. It sounds like you won't be home much. This is just the beginning. Attending club functions, programs, fund-raises, anniversaries etc. will take up much of your time for this year. These directories will go out to the clubs, cabinet, and multiple districts, Past District Governors and to special areas such as CLERF, the Lions Low Vision Centers, Fidelco, CRIS Radio and BESB.

Because you were so well prepared as the VDG, your friendship banners should have been ordered and are due to come in any day. You may have also decided to have a District Governor pin to hand out (optional).

It is important to remember that you dress appropriately for all occasions. You are representing the Lions of your district and as such, your appearance is a reflection on all of them. For club visitations, your complete cabinet uniform is appropriate, unless the club has directed you that the affair is very relaxed and informal such as a picnic.

To be stored in your auto: your DG speech, cell phone, maps, (GPS if you can afford one) extra directories, note pad, pens, friendship banners, a selection of LCI forms and publications stored in a file box, an induction/installation kit, (candles only travel well in cold weather), a warm blanket, flashlight, energy bars, first aid kit and a membership in AAA or a comparable road service.

Your year as District Governor (continued)

Be prepared to do the unexpected. Although you may believe that you are just doing a routine visitation, you may find yourself inducting, installing and awarding Lions without warning. Make it a practice to recognize individual club Lions while at the meeting. Do some homework either through the LCI web site or by making a call in advance to the club secretary.

It is your job this year to inspire, motivate and to teach the Lions in your clubs about our association. You are the CEO and most importantly the chief cheerleader. If you are having problems or issues with a club, work through your Zone Chairperson or if that fails, meet privately and quietly with the club president. Do not bring these issues into your Governor's speech.

Your program for the District is your own. Although it should reflect the International program, don't hesitate to become creative in order to motivate the Lions. Today's Lions want to be entertained, they want to grow, they want to have a reason to attend meetings and they want to serve. It is up to the leadership to come up with programs to fill those needs.

Bring your spouse to as many events as possible. In doing so, you will encourage couples to join this association. If you have children, bring them to the weekend events that are appropriate for their age.

Ultimately remember that your job as the District Governor is to leave the district just a little better than you found it.

IPDG and PDG Responsibilities

It is important to understand, before you begin to seek the office of district governor that your responsibilities and commitments will not end on the day you complete your term as governor. It will, in fact, continue for many years.

Our current Multiple-District Constitution and Bylaws establishes the office of council chairman and states that one of the three sitting governors of the MD 23 districts shall, by rotation, become the council chairman at the end of his or her term as governor. Thus, if the current council chairman is the IPDG from District A, the next council chairman will be the current governor from District B, and the next one after that will be the current VDG from District C, and so on. As you can see, it is therefore possible to calculate whether or not you will “hit” the rotation and become the council chairman at the end of your year as governor. It is also possible to adjust when to throw your hat in the ring depending on whether or not you aspire to the council chairmanship.

If you do become council chairman, you will serve a year as coordinator and administrator of the multiple districts. You will lead and be a voting member of the MD 23 Council composed of the three sitting district governors and the council secretary/treasurer and you will represent the multiple district at all functions both in and out of the state. You will also be in charge of the Connecticut delegation to the USA/Canada Forum in September of your council chairman year and will serve as conference chairman for the Mid-Winter Conference in February of the year following your council chairman year.

Whether you become council chairman or not you will serve your district as immediate past district governor for the year immediately following your governorship. This position makes you a voting member of the Governor’s Cabinet and a close advisor to the governor that replaces you. Remember that he or she is the person that served you as VDG for your year as governor and you may well want to return some favors.

If you do not become council chairman, one of the most important duties you will have as a PDG, is to either chair the State Convention or chair the Connecticut delegation to the International Convention. Which convention you get is again determined by rotation amongst the three districts. Since LCI establishes International Convention sites many years in advance, it is possible to determine where your convention will be long before you take office.

In the third year after your term as governor you will be asked to serve as president of the Past District Governors’ Association of District 23-B. This is an unofficial organization whose purpose it is to assist the district, the governor and his cabinet in any way possible. The presidency of this association is usually preceded by a year of service as its secretary/treasurer.

In addition to all of these assigned and appointed duties, you must bear in mind that as a PDG you will be looked upon as having gained a certain amount of wisdom, knowledge, respect and experience that may be of great value to your district and the Lions organization. Be prepared to be asked by future governors to be on multiple district committees, as cabinet chairman or to be assigned special tasks or projects as leader, teacher, presenter or advisor. An international director or LCI may even call you upon for special service.

IPDG and PDG Responsibilities (continued)

You will certainly be offered the opportunity to perform induction ceremonies and club officer installations for many years following your term as governor. While the level of activity you maintain in these later years is up to you, the opportunities for continued active service will always be there.

Rewards

Throughout your years as a lion you realize that the awards and recognition you personally receive are silently felt by you as an individual Lion, working the many fundraisers, serving with your fellow lions, and serving your community and the many programs that the lions around the world participate in.

As you held positions on the cabinet, moved on to Vice District Governor, then, District Governor you have had the chance to have seen and heard of many programs that the lions can provide for the needy.

As a District Governor you have had the opportunity to bring these programs before your district clubs, and to promote the advantages of club support. You have seen the clubs at work, the effects of the lions bringing these programs to the district and around the state.

As a District Governor you have served with the District Governors of the two other districts, you probably have met several International Officers. You will have made many long lasting friendships that you will remember for a long long time.

Banquets, plaques and gifts are the physical rewards. Working with the district lions, seeing the effectiveness of the lions programs at work and the memories and long lasting friendships, these are, the rewards silently felt as you continue on with our Lions goal of, "WE SERVE".

Notes & Questions

Time Line

It is tradition to publicly announce your candidacy for the office of Vice District Governor at the October cabinet meeting of the year prior to the expected year of your election. (I.E. Announce in October of 2006 for election in May of 2007, at the state convention)

In the years prior to your announcement:

Complete one year as President of your club.

Serve at least two years on your club's Board of Directors.

Serve at least one year as a Zone Chairman, a Region Chairman, or as Cabinet Secretary
Cabinet Treasurer.

Serve at least one year as a Cabinet Chairman.

Visit as many clubs in the District as possible

Attend as many conventions, conferences, seminars and training sessions as possible.

Learn as much as you can about the workings of the District, the Multiple District and Lions Clubs International.

In the 9 months prior to your announcement:

Discuss your intention with your club to run for VDG and DG.

Gather your campaign staff.

Secure your club's official endorsement.

In September, send your announcement and your club's endorsement to the District Cabinet Secretary.

At the October cabinet meeting, your announcement and endorsement will be read and you are officially a candidate. At this time you should prepare a calendar for those things you will have to accomplish prior to your election in May, including the following:

Visit as many of the clubs in the District as possible to inform them of your candidacy and to let them see who you are.

Prepare for and host hospitality at the Mid-Winter Conference and the State Convention.

Attend as many District meetings and functions as possible to get a feel for current District operations.

Attend the MD-23 VDGE/DGE School in May.

Attend the New England VDGE/DGE School.

Time Line (continued)

Select the people who will deliver your nominating and seconding speeches.

Plan and hold fundraisers in support of your candidacy as necessary

Between your election in May and your assumption of the office of Vice District Governor on July 1:

Work with the current Vice District Governor to determine how you will support him or her during his or her year as Governor.

As Vice District Governor:

Attend all pre-council meetings and council meetings, New England Council meetings, the Rindge Memorial Service and all cabinet meetings.

Attend as many zone meetings, seminars, District functions, Multiple District functions and International functions as possible.

Attend the USA/Canada Forum including the VDG Seminars.

Assist your District Governor in carrying out his or her programs.

In September, secure your club's endorsement for the office of District Governor and send it forward to the Cabinet Secretary.

Select the people who will deliver your nominating and seconding speeches.

Attend the District and New England VDGE/DGE Schools.

Prepare for and attend the DG School at the international convention site.

Design and have manufactured your personal friendship banner and governor's pin if you plan to have one.

Begin preparation of your district directory.

Select your cabinet.

Establish your club visitation schedule for your year as Governor.

Select your CST and your Zone and Region Chairmen.

Prepare your plan for your year as Governor.

Upon assumption of the office of District Governor:

Review financial accounts from the previous year and prepare your budget.

Establish your working relationship with your Vice District Governor.

Follow your game plan for a successful year as Governor.