

ZONE CHAIR BOB RASMUS ADDRESS TO SQUAMISH LIONS

SQUAMISH, BC
JANUARY 9, 2014

A brief overview of our Lions World shows us that we are a small part of a worldwide organization comprised of 1.35 million members in 46,000 Lions clubs in 207 Countries or Territories. Canada is Region 20, we are part of Multiple District 19. Multiple District 19 is spread over Washington, British Columbia and Northern Idaho. It consists of 9 Districts 19A to 19 I and 69 Zones. It contains 461 Lions Clubs with 12,501 members. Our District 19A starts in South Vancouver and extends as far North as Kaien Island and as far East as Coquitlam. It consists of 7 Zones with 58 Lions Clubs, One Lioness Club and 8 Leos Clubs with 1104 members. Our Zone 19A2 is made up with clubs on the north shore and along the Sea to Sky corridor, it contains 8 clubs with 180 members.

Each club within our Zone contributes to the support of their community in their own way. Some of the support is by way of Scholarships or Bursaries. Some clubs manage social housing for families and or seniors. Clubs provide support for our youth through kid's activities, camperships, sponsorships for choirs, bands and sports teams they also provide support for PAC fund raising projects. All the clubs provide support for many social programs for the Youth at Risk, the Physically and Mentally disabled, the seniors and the members of our communities who are suffering through hard times or are experiencing health issues. Clubs provide entertainment within their communities with Car shows and Community celebrations. We support hospitals, the Easter Seals House and various camp facilities.

Funds are raised through a variety of methods including Gaming grants, Cooking events, Christmas tree sales, chip-ups, flower sales and poker tournament to name a few. Together, last year, the clubs in 19A2 raised approximately \$280,000.00 all of which was donated back to our communities.

The Squamish Lions Club has been active for the past 56 years. During that time they have taken an active part in many of our District's conferences and fund raising initiatives. Your members have provided leadership for our Zone as well as input into the management of our Zone and our District. Your club has been an active member of your community with involvement in civic events. You have, over the years taken a special interest in activities and events at Camp Squamish, the Easter Seals Camp located in your community. You have also been instrumental in the development of the Railway museum which has become a home for your club.

You continue to raise funds within your community, these fund raising activities allow you to provide support for charities that service your community. You are also active in assisting your community with service projects.

You are a very active club with plans to increase your membership and you're currently investigating the possibility of starting a Leos club thereby providing a stronger presence in your community where you are already well respected by the local citizens. You are a welcome addition to Zone A2

Your Club activities have all contributed to supporting and strengthening your community. It's my belief that you will continue to do so for many years to come.

Our International President, Barry J. Palmer's motto is "*Follow your Dream*", he says that "*If we DREAM boldly and pursue our dreams, we will achieve more than we ever believed possible. This is our time to LEAD. This is your time to ACHIEVE.*" As an incentive President Palmer has introduced the DREAM ACHIEVER AWARDS to challenge and motivate our current District Governors. This year long program is divided into four earnings periods:

1. **Expand** our district by chartering new clubs
2. **Invite** new members to join your club
3. **Retain** your existing members
4. **Grow** our overall District membership.

If we all work together, we will achieve our District Governor and ultimately, our International Presidents Dream.

The other program that our International President is promoting is the **CLUB EXCELLENCE PROGRAM**. This is a fun interactive process that can help a club improve member satisfaction, make service projects more effective and set goals to ensure a club stays on the path to excellence..

LCI has made it easier for clubs to take advantage of the Club Excellence Process by offering two versions: CEP Pro and CEP lite. I am pleased to see that your club is moving forward by enrolling in the CEP Lite program. I would like to see all the clubs in our Zone choose the version that's right for them and get on the path to club excellence.

At your next meeting, I will be introducing you to our current District Governor Peter Cheng he is working hard to achieve our International president's dream and to see that our district has a very successful year.

One of the reasons people join a Lions club is because it makes them feel good to help others, your members must all feel real good about what you do for your community. The Lions motto is "We Serve" your club certainly lives up to that motto. Please keep up the good work but remember to have fun while you serve.

I want to thank you for allowing me to speak to you this evening, if you ever have any questions or if I can help you in any way, please call me. It has been my pleasure to be here with you tonight.

Thank you