



## DISTRICT GOVERNOR JOAN MARLETTE

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Lion Pres. Joan Bjorklund  
PO Box 107  
Volga, SD 57071

Dear Lion Pres. Joan,

I want to thank you and all the Volga Lions for the great visitation on Jan, 21. Jerry and I very much enjoyed ourselves. We made it home with no problems.

I have enclosed a copy of the Volga Lions Club survey results for you. I will also be sending a copy of this letter and the survey to Gladys and Ellen. As I said at the meeting, I urge you to share this letter and survey with all of the club members. I will make some comments on areas of the survey I feel are good and areas where improvements could be made. Please discuss this survey as the program at a club meeting and decide how the Volga Lions can make improvements.

Some Lions who returned the survey did not respond to all of the items. I never know if this is because they really had no opinion or if it is because they do not want to be honest as they fear it may hurt someone's feelings. However, this is the reason why some questions had as many as 12 responses and some had as few as 7. Also remember that nearly all of the responses were from Lions who were at the meeting which I am assuming are the same Lions who attend most meetings.

Everyone seems to mostly enjoy the Volga Lions Club (the 1 Lion who seldom enjoys the Club indicated it was because of a hearing problem—maybe a PA system who help here?) which is good. It is also good that everyone often likes the way the meetings are conducted. And finally, everyone seems to get along well in the club, work together harmoniously with little friction, and no one makes anyone feel terribly uncomfortable.

The three biggest reasons former Lions give for quitting there club are: 1) lack of meaningful involvement; 2) long, boring meetings; & 3) club cliques and politics.

The items dealing with meaningful involvement were the questions on whether their input was valued during a club meeting, whether the activities they are involved with are meaningful to them, and whether all members feel like they are an important part of the club. Five Lions did indicate that only sometimes do they feel their input is valued, 4 Lions indicated that seldom or only sometimes are the activities meaningful to them, and 6 Lions indicated that sometimes to never do they feel like they are an important part of the club. Since 8 Lions indicated that always to sometimes they feel like the club does not do enough service and 4 Lions feel that the current activities are seldom or sometimes meaningful to them, this might be a good time to look for a new project. Using the "5000 Pennies for Your Thoughts" ad would be a way to find that project.

As for long, boring meetings, 4 Lions said the meetings are sometimes boring, 2 Lions said that only sometimes are the meetings informative with good programs, and 5 Lions said that only seldom or sometimes do you have a tailtwister that adds fun to the meeting. One way to prevent long, boring meetings is to always have a program and another is to have an energetic, fun-loving tailtwister. With SDSU so close, I would think you have many excellent programs at your disposal.

Two Lions did indicate that sometimes there are cliques in the club and 5 Lions said that sometimes or often members sit at the same table every meeting. A good tailtwister can fine individuals for sitting at the same table every meeting or do some things to mix up the seating. For example, a deck of cards can be torn in half, one half given to each member as they come in, then the members must find the other half of their card on the table & sit at that spot.

I noticed also that nearly everyone indicated they would at least sometimes like to bring family members to meetings. Maybe once per quarter you could have some kind of social gathering to include family members and a special program.

Like most clubs, your members indicated that you need more, younger members. One way is to ask younger people to help you with some projects, both service projects & fund raising projects. Once these younger people see all the good service projects you do and “get that warm, fuzzy feeling in their heart” because they have helped someone, they will be more likely to join. The other thing is to remember that we are a “service” club, not a “meeting” club. By this, I mean that service is much more important than attending meetings. If younger people are willing to work service projects but right now do not have the time to attend meetings, they are still good members. Eventually, as their kids grow up, they will attend more of the meetings.

I hope you discuss the survey at a meeting and that you find some of the suggestions in this letter helpful. If you need any help leading the survey discussion or help implementing improvements that the members have identified, please let me know. If I am not available to attend another meeting, I will find a PDG or someone else to help you.

Together We Serve,

DG Joan

Cc: Gladys Lee  
Ellen Young