

19A CABINET REPORT - DIABETES AWARENESS

April 04, 2008

Diabetes Awareness - 19A Committee Report by:
(name)

PID Ralph H. Long - Chairperson
(name)

I. BACKGROUND:

1. **1925:** As a result of a stirring heart felt appeal from the late Helen Keller at our 1925 international convention we adopted as our major service activity the conservation of sight and hearing and the rendering of services to those with sight and hearing problems.
2. **1982:** As a result of finding that one of the leading causes of new cases of blindness in people in North America between the ages of 20 and 74 was diabetic retinopathy caused by one being afflicted with and suffering from uncontrolled diabetes Lions created the Journey for Sight Program in 1982 to raise funds to fight diabetic retinopathy.
3. **1983:** With the growing incidence of diabetes, type 2 (adult onset) and the deadly complications that result from uncontrolled diabetes, Lions International adopted the "Elimination of Diabetes" as a major service activity in 1983. In addition to our efforts to find a cure and/or to lessen the effects of this dreaded disease, we campaign to bring AWARENESS to the public. - To bring AWARENESS - AWARENESS - AWARENESS - not research (Lions Clubs International Foundation looks after research in abundance) - to the public.
4. **2008:** To-day, in addition to numerous service activities involving diabetes, the Lions Clubs International believes that diabetes awareness is so important that the cabinet of every Lions' district and multiple district has at least 1 Diabetes AWARENESS portfolio. The Elimination of Diabetes continues to be a major service activity of the Lions organization.
5. **2008:** To-day, the elimination of diabetic retinopathy and other eye related diseases and conditions are so important that it is part of CAMPAIGN SIGHT FIRST II.
6. **2008:** To-day - more money is spent by the British Columbia Provincial Health Care system on diabetes services, medication and equipment than on any other disease - much of which could be eliminated if awareness was working.

II. THE ROLE OF THE LION - TO BRING AWARENESS

1. Tragically, this disease (diabetes) has no cure but controlled diabetes can diminish or slow down the deadly complications.
2. First, the lions, lionesses and leos of District 19A need to be informed, educated and motivated to provide awareness and services to the public and to raise funds for activities which are educational and informative ;
 - (a). AWARENESS – of the major complications that uncontrolled diabetes is likely to cause to your health (vascular, retinopathy, nephropathy, neuropathy);

- (b). **AWARENESS – of the extent of diabetes and of how many who have it do not know they suffer from diabetes (7% of our population and 33.5% thereof do not know);**
- ©. **AWARENESS – of what part of our population is most likely to have diabetes (asians, native indians, africans and hispanics);**
- (d). **AWARENESS – that diabetes has no cure**
- (e). **AWARENESS - that while diabetes has no cure – diabetes can be controlled (exercise, diet and if necessary medication) and if controlled you can diminish or slow down the deadly complications.**

III. DISTRICT 19A's involvement

- 1. During the cabinet meeting in December, 2003 chaired by then District Governor Charles Erasmus the following resolution was unanimously passed:**

“that District 19A apply to Lions Clubs International Foundation for an LCIF grant to purchase and put into operation a fully equipped mobile health screening unit (Primarily for diabetes services but to include the ability to offer sight and hearing services as well) to be used throughout the Province of British Columbia and in particular throughout the geographical area of District 19A.”

This motion was ratified at the cabinet meeting held April 23, 2004.

- 2. As the District needed to raise part of the funds required in order to qualify for an LCIF grant a series of fund raising projects occurred including;**
 - (a) several fund raising activities on May 5, 2004 held at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, on August 8, 2004 at Thunderbird Stadium, University of British Columbia on April 8, 2006 at a fund raising dinner;**
 - (d) and in particular as a result of the incorporation of your foundation in August, 2006 to raise the rest of the necessary funding to complete the project at a dinner held November 11, 2006.**
- 3. The November 11, 2006 dinner established our foundation and made this a truly District 19A Project:**
 - (a) 3 clubs, Vancouver Shaughnessy, Vancouver Marpole and Vancouver Metropolitan co-sponsored this dinner and 22 clubs donated to our appeal.**
 - (b) as a result the Lions and Lions Clubs of District 19A raised sufficient funds, which when added to funds raised on other events enabled the Foundation to apply for and receive a matching grant from LCIF (the LCIF matching grant was presented during the visit to Rita's Spring Conference in April, 2007 by the Chairman of LCIF, then Immediate Past International President Ashok Mehta).**
 - (c) By the end of the Foundation's first fiscal year, July 31, 2007 we had \$99,857.98 in our bank, inclusive of an LCIF Grant of \$49,658.44 which enabled the Foundation to**

purchase, equip, and license a Mobile Screening and Education Unit with funds on hand to pay set up costs and projected Operations costs for the first 8 months of operations. The initial part of this \$182,000.00 project was completed in January, 2008.

- 4. In March, 2008 the first public use of our MHSU to bring AWARENESS occurred in Powell River, Sechelt and Gibson's as a result of the request and hard work of ZC6 Hugh Hepburn with PDG Ray Moyle driving the van and displaying the van and our hardworking President VDG Cecil Fung and Secretary PZC Angela Lam in attendance throughout. Thank you to all 4 of you.**
- 5. As a result of the efforts of PZC Angela, VDG Cecil, and our treasurer Tennyson, the MHSU will be on display during 19A's Spring Conference on April 4 and 5, 2008.**

III. WHERE ARE WE GOING?

- 1. While we have now raised and had in the bank \$99,857.98, inclusive of the LCIF Grant of \$49,658.44 which enabled us to acquire the Mobile Screening and Education Unit acquisition and set up costs and enables us to cover projected Operations costs for the first 8 months of operations to the end of the summer of 2008 (First Stage) we now concentrate on continuing our fund raising efforts to cover the rest of the total projected costs of \$182000.00 (Second Stage).**
- 2. We are planning for a fund raising, program launching and thank you event on Sunday, April 20, 2008 at the Floata Restaurant with full media coverage.**
- 3. We still need financial support from the Lions of District 19A to help us raise a further \$82,000.00 and suggest District 19A Lions clubs to consider:**
 - (a) donating \$10,000.00 (over 4 years) resulting in your club's name appearing with LCIF on the van – the following clubs have agreed to do so:**
 - (i) Vancouver Pacific Lions Club in December, 2007**
 - (ii) Vancouver East Lions Club in December, 2007**
 - (iii) Vancouver Shaughnessy Lions Club in February, 2008**
 - (b) purchasing fellowships at \$500.00 per fellowship (we now have 6 Fellows);**
 - © purchasing life memberships at \$100.00 each (we now have 51 Life Members); and**
 - (d) your attendance and participation in the April 20, 2008 dinner.**

**Respectfully submitted,
RALPH H. LONG
Past International Director
Diabetes Awareness Chair 19A**