



## An Opportunity of a Lifetime in Service to Others



I have been a Lion for over 40 years. When I joined my Lions club in 1976, there were over 35,000 Lions in Texas. Today, there are only about 25,000. It's hard to imagine where we would be today if we hadn't welcomed women into our Association thirty years ago. This year, we are honored with the leadership of our first woman in the position of International President. IP Gudrun Yngvador is inspiring Lions to become creative problem-solvers. Through a real "Team" approach, together with her partner, PIP Dr. Jon, her dedication, commitment and passion for service will lead Lions worldwide to achieve growth to new heights in membership and **New Horizons in Service.**

As incoming Council Chair, at the 2014 International Convention in Toronto, I witnessed PIP Joe Preston launch our 3-year Centennial Celebration Challenge. Over the next three years, Lions were challenged to perform service benefiting 100 million people. At the half-way point, we surpassed our goal, so we set a new target of 200 million. At the close of our Centennial, Lions actually performed almost 250 million acts of humanitarian service across the globe.

### **Service is what Lions are about**

Without a strong and growing base of Lions and their Helping Hands, we will not be able to meet our new goal of 200 million acts of service every year.

Sustaining this level of service will not be accomplished without a well-thought out and executed plan that addresses our core purpose and inspires our members to serve even more in all of our communities. During the three-year Centennial, Lions Clubs International invested thousands of dollars to develop such a plan. We looked inward at our Association, interviewed thousands of Lions and others to identify what we do well, and where we need additional work. One thing we learned from our history is that Helen Keller's challenge to us to become "*Knights for the Blind*" provided Lions with a laser-like focus on helping blindness and enabled Lions to become the largest world-wide service organization. Entering our second century of service, LCI leadership determined that we need another, well-defined focus in order to reach our future goals in service. This is where **LCI Forward** and **Campaign 100** were born. What we need now is leadership with an ability to translate our International programs into actions that support our clubs, our members and the service we provide to all of our communities.

It would be a great honor to serve on the International Board and help LCI and the Lions of Texas to do just that. *I want to help our members expand their reach in service, identify new opportunities focusing on our core areas, and meet the new and expanded service goals.* Just as I did serving as your Council Chair, I want to continue supporting and building our membership base by promoting the innovative tools and resources that LCI developed to help build Club strength and grow our membership. I want to help our Clubs identify ways to engage their members, increase participation and develop the Lion Leaders who are the future of our Association. Together with Lion Juanita, I want to sincerely thank you for your confidence and consideration and tell you that I truly look forward to this opportunity of a lifetime to continue my service to you the Lions, your Districts, our Multiple District and Lions Clubs International.

I Stand Prepared to Serve You,

