

October 12, 2008

To: District Governor Lion Nancy Rex

From: Lion Paul Gergolla, PDG

Subject: LIF Memorials & Endowment Fund Report

The membership numbers in Multiple District 1 continue their decline. Some studies suggest that the rate of decline is accelerating. This is what makes our Endowment Fund more important than ever. I am sure that most Lions in Illinois would like to see Camp Lions, and all other programs and services provided by our Foundation, continue well into the future. If we are able to build the balance sheet of our Endowment Fund the earnings from those investments will enable that continuity of services to go on for many years.

This provides us with two challenges. The first challenge is to increase our membership numbers. The addition of new Lions will mean more people working Candy Day and selling Sight & Sound Sweepstakes tickets. I will differ to our MERLOW Team when it comes to gaining more Lions. The second challenge is to increase the size of our Endowment Fund. This can be done through Sustaining Supporters, Foundation Fellows and Legacy Club memberships.

Candy Day is the single largest fundraiser of the Lions of Illinois Foundation. The funds raised during this event are applied to the programs and services of our Foundation. They do not go into the Endowment Fund. Expecting Lions to work for their Foundation simultaneously on two fronts, while performing their local activities, might be too much. With Candy Day having ended, now is the time to approach the Lions of District 1-J to challenge them to support the Endowment Fund. That is what I intend to do for the balance of this Lion Year.

The Investment Policy of the Endowment Fund is, by design, conservative. It consists of no risky investments. Other charitable foundations throughout North America use our policy as a standard model. Now is the time to increase the size of the fund.