Clarenville DGO

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“WHAT IT MEANS TO ME – TO BE A LION”

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CLARENVILLE DISTRICT GOVERNOR’S ORGANIZATIONAL (DGO)

MEETING 04 - 06 FEBRUARY 2000

“WHAT IT MEANS TO ME – TO BE A LION”

BY EXTENSION, LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP (ELM) TEAM MEMBERS LION RAY LEBEAU, LION BILL GRANDY, LION GAIL OSBORNE AND LION CHRIS TEMPLE

INTRODUCTION

I AM A MEMBER OF THE WORLD’S LARGEST SERVICE ORGANIZATION, AND YES, ‘I’M PROUD TO BE A LION’.

YOU ARE ALL MEMBERS OF THE WORLD’S LARGEST SERVICE ORGANIZATION, AND YES, YOU ARE JUST AS PROUD TO BE LIONS.

BUT HAVING SAID THAT, WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN TO ME, AND TO YOU, TO BE A LION?

ARE WE LIONS BECAUSE WE WANT TO ADVANCE OUR OWN INTERESTS, OR BECAUSE WE WANT TO ENHANCE OUR OWN WELFARE AND WELL-BEING? OR, ARE WE LIONS BECAUSE WE PUT THE WELFARE AND WELL-BEING OF OTHERS AHEAD OF OUR OWN?

LAST EVENING, AT ONE OF THE LEADERSHIP SESSION PRESENTATIONS, WE TALKED ABOUT 'HOW TO ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS'. ONE OF THE POINTS DISCUSSED IN THIS PRESENTATION WAS – IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THERE IS SATISFACTION IN SERVICE.

IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT LIONS ARE PEOPLE CARING FOR PEOPLE. WE ALL AGREED, THAT PEOPLE WHO PREFER THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE – PREFER PEOPLE.

LIONS DO PUT OTHERS AHEAD OF SELF.

LIONS ARE COMMITTED TO A LIFE OF SERVICE TO OTHERS. 'WE SERVE' IS NOT ONLY THE LIONS MOTTO . . . IT IS THE LIONS CHALLENGE.

WHEN I WAS PRIVILEGED TO ATTEND THE LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE IN LISLE ILLINOIS, IN APRIL OF 1997, I HAD THE VERY GOOD FORTUNE OF MEETING WITH PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT (PIP) LION 'BILL' BIGGS. IN ONE OF HIS

MOTIVATIONAL PRESENTATIONS, HE ASKED STUDENTS THE QUESTION – 'WHEN DID YOU BECOME A LION?'

HE WENT ON TO TELL OUR GATHERING, THAT IT WAS A COUPLE OF YEARS AFTER HE WAS INDUCTED AS A LION, THAT HE REALLY BECAME A LION. BECAUSE HIS TOUCHING STORY HAD SUCH AN IMPACT ON ME, AND EVERY OTHER LION IN ATTENDANCE, I CALLED PIP BILL ON THE 21ST OF JANUARY TO ASK IF I COULD HAVE HIS PERMISSION TO TELL THAT SAME STORY TO YOU.

WHEN I CONTACTED LION BILL AT HIS OFFICE IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA, I RE-INTRODUCED MYSELF AND SAID HOW MUCH THAT I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HIM AGAIN, IN MAY, AT THE MULTIPLE DISTRICT 41 CONVENTION IN ST. JOHN'S.

AFTER WE SAID OUR HELLO'S AND EXCHANGED A FEW LIONS STORIES, I TOLD HIM THAT AS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CO-CHAIR FOR DISTRICT 41-S2, I WOULD BE GIVING A PRESENTATION IN CLARENVILLE THE FIRST WEEK-END IN FEBRUARY.

WHEN I TOLD HIM THAT THE TITLE OF THIS PRESENTATION WAS "WHAT IT MEANS TO ME – TO BE A LION", HE GAVE ME HIS PERMISSION TO TELL YOU THE STORY OF WHEN HE BECAME A LION.

PIP BILL'S OMAHA EYE OPENER LIONS CLUB HAD PUT A COMMITTEE TOGETHER TO ATTEMPT TO RAISE $100,000.00 FOR AN OPERATION TO HELP AN EIGHT YEAR OLD BOY WHO HAD BEEN BORN CRIPPLED. THE THEN RELATIVELY NEW LION, BILL BIGGS, TOLD US THAT HIS CLUB PRESIDENT HAD GIVEN HIM THE COMMITTEE POSITION OF TAKING CARE OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER TO BE DRIVEN FROM OMAHA, NEBRASKA TO MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

NOT BEING ONE HUNDRED PERCENT THE OPTIMIST AT THAT TIME, 21 YEAR OLD LION BILL FELT THAT IT WOULD BE A VERY, VERY LONG TIME, IF EVER, BEFORE HIS CLUB COULD RAISE THE $100,000.00 FOR THE LITTLE BOY'S OPERATION.

THEREFORE, HE DID NOT THINK THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO DO VERY MUCH IN THE WAY OF LOOKING AFTER TRANSPORTATION.

AS TIME PASSED THOUGH, THE LIONS IN HIS CLUB CONTINUED TO WORK VERY HARD, AND THE MONEY KEPT COMING IN. EVENTUALLY, THE OMAHA EYE OPENER LIONS CLUB REACHED ITS GOAL OF RAISING THE REQUIRED $100,000.00.

ALL THEIR CLUB HAD TO DO NOW WAS MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE HOSPITAL IN ORDER FOR THE BOY TO SEE THE SPECIALIST WHO WOULD BE PERFORMING THE OPERATION. LIKE MOST HOSPITAL CASES, CALLS CAN COME AT ANY TIME OF THE NIGHT OR DAY, AND THIS PARTICULAR CALL CAME IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS. IT WAS THEN THAT LION BILL, GOT THE CALL TO TELL HIM THAT HE HAD TO TRANSPORT THE BOY AND HIS MOTHER TO MINNEAPOLIS.

LION BILL CLEARLY REMEMBERS THE NIGHT HE GOT THE CALL. IT WAS VERY DARK AND VERY, VERY COLD. HIS FIRST THOUGHTS, AS HE WAS DRIVING HIS CAR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, TO PICK UP THE BOY AND HIS MOTHER, WAS ‘THIS IS THE CRAZIEST THING I HAVE EVER DONE’.

ONCE HE HAD THEM IN THE CAR, HE WAS STILL THINKING THAT THIS WAS THE CRAZIEST THING HE HAD EVER DONE, AND WONDERING ‘WHY AM I DOING THIS’. AT THE SAME TIME HE WAS HAVING THESE THOUGHTS, HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO DO EVERYTHING HE COULD TO HELP THIS YOUNG BOY AND HIS MOTHER FEEL COMFORTABLE AND TO PUT THEM AT EASE.

LION BILL SHOWED COMPASSION FOR THEIR SITUATION, AND HE DID WHATEVER WAS HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO RELIEVE SOME OF THEIR WORRIES AND CONCERNS.

AFTER SOME HOURS DRIVING, HE TOLD US THAT HE PARTICULARLY REMEMBERED THE DRIVE FROM GRAND FORKS TO FARGO. THE BRILLIANT SUN WAS JUST COMING UP OVER THE FLAT PLAINS AND IT WAS A PICTURE-PERFECT MORNING.

IT WAS AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, WHILE LION BILL WAS ENJOYING THIS BEAUTIFUL SUNRISE, THAT THE YOUNG BOY LOOKED TOWARD LION BILL AND SAID, MISTER, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING? WHEN LION BILL NODDED YES, THE YOUNG BOY STUNNED HIM WITH THE QUESTION, “ARE YOU GOD?”

TAKEN BACK, LION BILL ASKED HIM WHY HE WAS ASKING HIM THAT QUESTION. THE YOUNG BOY RESPONDED, BECAUSE MY MOTHER HAS PRAYED TO GOD EVERY DAY FOR SOMEONE TO HELP US, AND YOU CAME. TO THAT LION BILL HUMBLY RESPONDED, NO SON, I’M NOT GOD. I’M A LION, I’M ONE OF HIS HELPERS!

IMAGINE THAT! LION BILL TOLD US THAT THE LITTLE BOY’S QUESTION LEFT HIM IN AWE. BUT, THERE WAS ONE THING

CERTAIN, THAT CAME TO HIM AS AN IMMEDIATE REVELATION. IT WAS AT THAT EXACT MOMENT, LION BILL SAID, THAT HE BECAME A COMMITTED LION.

IT WAS AT THAT EXACT TIME THAT HE CAME TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUE MEANING OF LIONISM. IT WAS THIS EXPERIENCE THAT BRANDED HIS HEART WITH THE WHAT IT REALLY MEANT TO HIM, TO BE A CARING LION.

WELL MY FELLOW LIONS . . . THERE ARE LOTS OF LITTLE BOYS, LITTLE GIRLS AND FAMILIES OUT THERE WHO ARE IN NEED, AND WHO REQUIRE THE LOVE AND CARE OF CONCERNED LIONS – LIONS LIKE YOU AND ME, WHO CARE ABOUT PEOPLE.

PIP LION BILL BIGGS IS THE SAME PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT WHO SAYS TO ALL LIONS:

‘DON’T TELL ME YOU ARE A COMMITTED LION – SHOW ME”

ANYONE WHO KNOWS ME, KNOW THAT THIS HAS BECOME ONE OF MY FAVOURITE EXPRESSIONS.

PIP BILL SAYS THAT IF YOU ARE ONLY <u>INTERESTED</u> IN LIONISM AND IN BEING A LION, YOU <u>MIGHT</u> GO TO A MEETING OR HELP WITH

A LIONS PROJECT. BUT, IF YOU ARE COMMITTED TO LIONISM, YOU WILL GO TO A MEETING AND YOU WILL HELP WITH A LIONS PROJECT.

BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT PIP BILL PRACTICES WHAT HE PREACHES! IF YOU WANT TO MEET THIS DYNAMIC AND COMMITTED LION, DON'T MISS THE MULTIPLE DISTRICT D41 CONVENTION BEING HELD IN ST. JOHN'S 19-21 MAY 2000.

YES, BEING A LION MEANS HAVING TO MAKE SACRIFICES. WHETHER YOU ARE INVOLVED WITH A LIONS COMMUNITY PROJECT AT 3 IN THE AFTERNOON, OR HELPING A FAMILY IN NEED AT 3 IN THE MORNING, IT DOESN'T MATTER. "WE SERVE' MEANS JUST THAT - **'WE SERVE'**.

BEARING IN MIND THAT WE STILL HAVE FAMILIES, JOBS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, HOW MUCH ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE OF YOURSELF? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO LIGHTEN THE BURDEN OF SOMEONE LESS FORTUNATE? HAVE YOU LET THOSE AROUND YOU KNOW THAT YOU REALLY CARE?

WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN TO ME, AND TO YOU, TO BE A LION? IF YOU HAVE A STORY ABOUT YOURSELF, OR ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE,

PLEASE SHARE IT WITH US. THE PURPOSE OF THIS LEADERSHIP SESSION, (OR 'WE SERVE' FORUM), IS TO RE-INFORCE THE ATTRIBUTES ASSOCIATED WITH BEING A LION. TELL US YOUR STORY, OR THE STORY OF LION WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU.

THIS NEXT HALF HOUR OR SO WILL BE OPEN TO YOU TO SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH US. IF YOUR VOICE IS STRONG ENOUGH YOU CAN STAND AND SPEAK DIRECTLY FROM YOUR CHAIR, BUT IF YOU PREFER, YOU MAY COME FORWARD TO USE THE MICROPHONE.

I AM SURE THAT EVERYONE HERE HAS AT LEAST ONE STORY THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH US. I WANT TO ASK YOU THE QUESTION - WHEN DID YOU BECOME A LION . . . AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU . . . TO BE A LION?

YOUR PARTICIPATION THIS (MORNING/AFTERNOON) IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY AND WILL HELP TO REMIND US WHY WE ARE LIONS AND IT WILL ALSO HELP TO RE-INFORCE THOSE ATTRIBUTES OF LIONISM WHICH WE HOLD MOST DEAR.

TAKEN FROM THE 'LIONS CLUB OBJECTS' AND THE 'LIONS CODE OF ETHICS', SOME OF THE PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES SHARED AMONGST LIONS INCLUDE:

OUR COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

OUR COMPASSION FOR OTHERS

A SENSE OF SELF-CONFIDENCE

OUR COLLECTIVE PRIDE IN LIONISM

LOYALTY TOWARDS OUR FELLOW LIONS

OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS OF THOSE LESS FORTUNATE

PROMOTING THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP

FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP

ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER TO BE THE BEST WE CAN BE

OUR OBLIGATION TO UPHOLD THE OBJECTS AND ETHICS OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

MAINTAINING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

OUR DEDICATION TO LIVE UP TO OUR MOTTO **"WE SERVE"**

OUR COURAGE TO BE RISK TAKERS AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO ADAPT TO CHANGE

MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS; AND

STRONG MOTIVATIONAL LEADERSHIP

AND NOW, WITHOUT ME SAYING ANYTHING FURTHER, WOULD ANYONE LIKE TO SHARE THEIR STORY ABOUT 'WHAT IT MEANS TO ME . . . TO BE A LION'

THE FLOOR IS OPEN . . .

(CONCLUDE WITH A FEW WORDS AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THIS SESSION)