

Leadership is Survival

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Last year pilot Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger saved the lives of 155 people when he safely landed a jet in the Hudson River in New York. He acted quickly and decisively under tremendous stress. He had no time to plan. He certainly did not convene a committee to decide on the best course of action. He was the right person in the right place at the right time. He knew what to do and he did it. He was prepared and he was ready to act. He was the ultimate leader.

Great leadership can overcome any obstacle. Great leaders can take a group of determined, like-minded people and accomplish nearly any goal. We Lions have great leaders and we need to continue to groom even more. The desire to serve is in our hearts. Our leaders inspire us to take the next step, to reach the next level, to make the most of our spirit of service.

Our new district governor teams, consisting of a district governor and two vice governors, have given us a structure to take charge of our future. Lions Clubs International also is expanding and upgrading leadership training for Lions. So we have the structures in place to produce the leaders we deserve.

Every Lion can contribute to the effort to produce leaders. Lions can identify and then encourage leaders. We need to continue to generate club presidents and other club officers with the skills to make our clubs as effective as possible. We Move to Grow through the vision and guidance of our leaders. Just as we must induct qualified members, so, too, must we select Lions qualified to lead. As you may well know, an extraordinary club president can lift and energize a club as nothing else can.

Good leaders will light the way for Lions. Their importance can't be overstated: leadership is survival. Without good leadership, it's all too easy to founder on the rocks of discord, aimlessness and lethargy. With good leadership, we can continue to do an outstanding job of planning, working together and making sure our service conforms to what people need and what we can deliver.

We have broken new records in inducting qualified members because WE MOVED TO GROW successfully in the first half of the Lions year, and we will further MOVE TO GROW. While the world is shrinking we will extend our service.