



International President's Message

On the Outer Banks of my home state of North Carolina, stands the world's tallest brick lighthouse. The Cape Hatteras lighthouse, built in 1807, has stood as a symbol of hope for mariners for over two centuries. Atlantic currents in this area made for excellent travel for ships, except in the area just offshore at Cape Hatteras. Nearby, the warm Gulf Stream ocean current collides with the colder Labrador Current, creating ideal conditions for powerful ocean storms and sea swells. The beacon at Cape Hatteras has been credited with guiding ships to safe harbor - pointing the way for thousands who thought all hope was lost.

In spite of modern navigational aids and onboard satellite systems, lighthouses still dot the shores of oceans around the world. They have stood the test of time, and remain symbols of hope for those who have lost their way or are in need of assistance. The lighthouse keeper who used to manually light a lamp at the top of the lighthouse has long been replaced, but the light is still relevant.

Helen Keller asked the Lions to help her bring light to others. We answered that call as no other organization could, and our light of service is more relevant today than ever before. Yes – technology has added convenience to our lives, and we are all thankful for medical advances that have improved quality of life, and in many cases have made it possible to eradicate diseases that have plagued humankind. But in spite of advances far too numerous to mention, that have made our lives better, nothing has replaced the need for human interaction. There is no substitute for an outstretched hand offered in service.

Built on a solid foundation of volunteer service, Lions Clubs International has been providing hope to those in need since 1917. Throughout our history, Lions have been shining a light, highlighting health and happiness for millions of people living in darkness and despair. There is a light that emanates from each and every Lion member. You can see it in their eyes, you can see it in their smile, and you can see it in their actions.

“a ray of light from another soul touched the darkness of my mind and I found myself...and broke through the dark, silent imprisonment which held me.” - Helen Keller

As we navigate our way through this year, there may be unforeseen obstacles along the way, rugged shorelines, storms and rough seas. But there are over 1.3 million lighthouses in 205 countries – Lions members who will continue to light the way, and continue to serve as beacons of hope.

As your president, I ask of you to let the light of service shine brightly. Together, let us continue to be a symbol of light and hope for those who are in need, and for those who are searching for a safe harbor and a better tomorrow.

Sid L. Scruggs, III

Sid L. Scruggs, III
International President