

## **Practical Suggestions to Spruce Up Your Meetings**

*By PCC Steve Glass, District 29-I GMT Coordinator*

In today's society, Lion members, particularly young adults, are busy. Between school, work and starting a family, it may seem that they do not have time to be a Lion. However, reliable data tells us that they understand that giving back to their community is important. This applies to all segments of society regardless of age. There may be some changes that your club needs in order to attract and accommodate those busy people that we need in our clubs.

Consider the following:

- Be flexible and change your club constitution and by-laws to allow members to remain in good standing even if they are unable to attend every meeting. Consider participation in service projects every bit or more important than club meetings. Also, consider changing meeting times to better accommodate young adults.
- Let go of some club traditions. Many newer Lions, particularly young adults, are not interested or are outright turned off by some formalities that were once an established part of each meeting, i.e. wearing vests, Lion's Roar, being fined for not wearing a Lion pin.
- If some members do not prefer having a full meal, make it optional. Try serving light snacks at one of your meetings or give members two meeting choices. For example, dinner can be from 6:00-6:30 and club business will be discussed from 6:30-7:30.
- Stick to the agenda. Consider e-mailing the meeting agenda ahead of time so that members know what to expect.
- Mix things up. Change the scenery once in a while. Be creative and hold meetings at different locations. Try conducting some business during service projects or during some social or recreational outings.
- Try sitting in a circle or U shaped configuration if possible. This encourages open communication.
- Use the Tailwister not as a "cop", but rather as the Lion who starts the fun at each meeting.