

Cabinet Meeting Report

7/20/24

Opportunities for Youth

For this year's "Opportunities for Youth", PDG Rick and I put together a letter explaining this program. We had DG Bill e-mail it to every Lions Club president in District 2-S2. We told them about the opportunities Texas Lions offer our high school youth. We explained what it takes for a club to hold its own contest. The winners from your local club contest can move up to a District Level Contest, and ultimately, a State Level Contest. PDG Rick and I have offered to meet with and walk-through any clubs that are interested in learning more about this program.

Respectfully submitted,

PDG Rick Reynolds

Lion Marla Reynolds

Opportunities for Youth

Dear Club Presidents, Secretaries, and ALL Lions,

This is coming to you from PDG Rick and Lion Marla Reynolds. We are honored to have been asked by DG Bill to be our district's "Opportunities for Youth" chairmen this year. We are here to talk to you about exactly that – **opportunities** that our Lions Clubs can extend to our young people. As we all know, our youth of today are the future of our world, as well as our organization.

Texas Lions provide a variety of programs to encourage youth participation. Through its contests at the club level, the district level and ultimately the state level, students can research and gain knowledge on both diabetes and substance abuse. These contests provide our youth an opportunity to share leadership experiences and make a difference in their school and community.

The Texas Lions' "Opportunity for Youth" sponsors 3 main contests during the school year:

Diabetes Awareness Essay Contest

Drug Awareness Speech Contest

Outstanding Youth Award

PDG Rick and Lion Marla would like to encourage your clubs to consider helping out your local high school seniors with the rising costs of higher education, by giving them the opportunity to participate in these contests. Your club probably already gives scholarships and these contests can simplify your selection process. Your club level contest requires some time and planning, but not a great amount. Your club first determines how many scholarships you want to give and the monetary amounts. This information, along with the criteria for the contests are given to your local high school college and career counselor, and they disseminate the information to the students. Your club sets a deadline date to have all the scholarship applications turned into the counselor's office. After that, your club will secure a meeting site and set a date for your contest to determine who your winners are. PDG Rick and Lion Marla will be more than glad to help guide you along the way with any questions you may have should your club decide to participate in this opportunity.

We, along with our Cut & Shoot Family Lions Club, are again planning on hosting our District Level Scholarship Contest. The individual clubs' 1st place winners will advance to the District Level Contest and have an opportunity to compete and win more scholarship monies. There is a charge of \$100 per student entering the contest (paid by the sponsoring club). Just like last year, we are hoping to have the District Contest at our annual Mid-Winter Conference. That date will be *January 24 and 25, 2025*. As soon as the venue is determined and the time is set, this information will be given out to you and placed on the District website. So, if your club wants to host a contest, you need to have your winners determined well in advance of those dates. We suggest you hold your contests before your school's Christmas break.

The winners at our District Level Contest will then be invited to advance to our Texas State Level Contest. As you can see, there are wonderful opportunities for our youth to help themselves earn monies toward their education, as well as the practice, experience and leadership they gain by participating in these contests. As I said before, do not hesitate to get in touch with PDG Rick or Lion Marla if you have questions or need guidance in holding your own club contest. **We will be glad to visit your club and give a short presentation on a good way to hold a club level contest.** We will even make available samples from other clubs' contest applications and selection processes.

We are extremely excited to serve as your Opportunities for Youth chairs and we look forward to working with y'all again this year.

IT IS GREAT TO BE A LION!

Your Opportunities for Youth Chairmen,

PDG Rick & Marla Reynolds

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