

Lion Martin Bonura
for the
Office of Second Vice District Governor

Hello fellow Lions. I am Lois Conrad, member of the Williamsport Lions Club and current Global Leadership Team coordinator for District 22-W. I am proud to nominate Lion Martin Bonura for the high office of Second Vice District Governor.

I am sure that most everyone in District 22-W knows or has met Martin. When Martin is in the room you know it. He is the friendly, gregarious, welcoming Lion who always has a story to tell. Lion Martin has held numerous offices and positions at the club, district and multiple district levels and his life experiences have made him the man and Lion that he is today.

Lion Martin grew up in a rural community in south Louisiana. His father, Tony, was a farmer, a security guard, chemical plant worker and a shoe repair man. His mother, Josie, was a housewife who kept the books of the shoe repair shop and the other family business. His father had a 7th grade education, and his mother had a 5th grade education. Because of their lack of formal education, they wanted Martin, and his sister and brother to finish high school, go to college, and even obtain a post graduate degree.

Martin did all that. He graduated high school at 17 and college at 20 with a degree in secondary education. He met his wife to be, Susan, at college. They married in 1973 and just celebrated their 48th anniversary in March. Both received a master's degree in public administration from the University of New Orleans.

Martin taught in Louisiana public schools, worked as a technician at a chemical plant, was a safety manager at research laboratories in New Orleans and on Plum Island, and as the director of Safety, Quality Control, and Training at the corporate headquarters of a government contractor in Columbia, Maryland.

Martin has the heart of a volunteer and has served as a volunteer fire fighter and hazardous material specialist, and as an emergency medical technician. His focus, dedication, and passion for serving his fellowman led him to become a Lion when the realtor who helped them find a home in Connecticut asked Susan to attend a meeting of the East Haddam Community Lions. Susan became a member of that all- woman Lions club in 1996. Susan asked if a man could become a Lion in that club, and, in 1997, after being interviewed by the club members, they invited Martin to join their club.

After becoming a Lion, Martin realized that his forty years of teaching experience would be extremely useful as a Lion. Martin has used his teaching ability to instruct at many Lions institutes, membership summits and to train club officers. In fact, Lion Martin is the only Certified Lions instructor for Multiple District 22.

In his 24 years as a Lion, he has more than met the leadership requirements to be Second Vice District Governor. He has served at the club level as tail twister, director, secretary, vice president and president. He has served the district as cabinet secretary, global leadership chair, global membership chair, USA/Canada Forum chair, and Lions Quest chair.

He has been recognized as a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. He is on the district Honor Roll and has earned a Governors' Medal of Commendation, International President's Leadership and

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President's Medal, International President's Certificates of Commendation and Appreciation.
AND - he has received a Lions Vision Research Foundation Knights of the Blind Pyramid.

Wow!!

On a personal note, when I moved from District 22-C to 22-W, I had never considered getting involved in district activities. I met Martin in 2016 when Past District Governor Brian Cox asked me to be Region Chair and Martin was GLT. For some reason, Martin took me under his wing and pushed me to be the best I could be. He encouraged and mentored me. Whenever I had a question about what was expected of me or how things were done, I would go to Martin and he always had the answer. He assigned jobs to me in his various seminars that were out of my comfort zone and then commended me for doing a good job. His encouragement for the past 5 years gave me the incentive to accept other positions in 22-W. Martin is the kind of leader that raises up those behind him to become leaders themselves.

His many years of service demonstrates his commitment, dedication, focus, and passion to all the Lions in our district. He is ready to serve you as second vice district governor and I sincerely hope you will join me in endorsing his candidacy.