

**A Lion On The Verge of Obtaining the Presidency of our Association
by PIP Jim Coffey**



PID William P. "Bill" Leibensperger

In May of 1973 a Lion by the name of William P. "Bill" Leibensperger became Governor of District F and became a member of the 1973-1974 MD13 Ohio Lions Council of Governors.

Bill was a 100% District Governor and was elected the following year as Council Chairman of MD13. At the Multiple Convention in 1975 Bill was elected as Ohio's candidate for International Director. Ohio Lions felt very comfortable that Bill would be elected as an ID at the 1976 International convention in Honolulu. The Ohio Lions went to the International convention, 600+ Lions enthused about Bill's election. During convention week the support for Bill at the international level changed and Bill and the Ohio Lions were advised that Bill should consider withdrawing and run at the 1977 International Convention in New Orleans. The Lions of Ohio were disappointed but followed the advice given and Bill withdrew. The Ohio Lions came home and reorganized and went to New Orleans in 1977 and elected Bill as ID. He received more votes than any other ID candidate at that election. The other US/Canada directors elected that year were Robert Anderson, Ray Marley, John Gregory, Judge Brian Stevenson, William "Bill" Maguire and Ralph Helm. Bill served two years as director, and as an appointee to the International board of directors in 1979-1980, 1980-1981 and in 1990-1991.

Bill was endorsed by the Lions of Ohio, at their MD State Convention in 1982 as a candidate for 3rd V.P. The question was would Bill run in 1984 or 1985? The discussion was made at the International convention in San Francisco in 1984 that the board would recommend and support Bill at the Dallas International convention in 1985. His campaign was launched in July of 1983 with PID Jim Coffey serving as his campaign chairman.

The campaign was going very well until March 1984 when Bill and his wife Ruth learned that Ruth had terminal cancer and only had 3 to 4 months to live. After consulting with the doctor's of Ruth's condition he informed the "world" that he was withdrawing his candidacy to spend the time remaining with Ruth. Bill would never seek the office of 3rd V.P. thus ending "A Lion On The Verge of Obtaining the Presidency of our Association".