

IS YOUR CLUB ON AUTOPILOT?

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Flying an airplane with an autopilot has many advantages for the pilot. The autopilot can be your friend, but it can also lull you into a false sense of security. When the autopilot is engaged, the pilot becomes an observer. On a commercial airliner flying long distances, the autopilot helps carry the load of the pilot by easing the physical requirements of keeping the airplane on altitude and to some degree on course. The problem comes when its time to change course or altitude. The autopilot needs the pilot to take control, or the airplane will continue as before. There is another problem with over use of the autopilot. The pilot loses his “feel” of the airplane. When you lose your feel you lose your basic flying proficiency.

Some of our Lions clubs have been doing the same things for so many years they appear to be on autopilot. Its time to kick off the “autopilot”! It is time for us to take charge and to change course. Its time to meet new community needs, to recruit new members for service, to form a new club for a neighboring community, and to reintroduce having fun.

If you need some innovative ideas for membership recruitment or retention, then call upon your District MERL Team. If you have lost your proficiency in gaining and retaining members, then its time for some recurrent training. As a professional pilot, I had recurrent training every six months. Maybe its time for a check-up on our membership, and ensure that our mission of service is not falling short of our potential because we been on “autopilot” for too long.

Do you remember why you joined your Lions club? Are you still actively involved with helping others? Are you knowledgeable of our international organization and its activities? Are you aware of our multiple district organization and its activities? Can you share with others about your club’s history and its activities? Do you need some recurrent training? Remember the three “H”s; a Head to understand the needs of others, a Heart full of compassion and love to respond to the needs, and Hands ready to serve. That’s why I am a Lion, how about you?