

D8 Global Service Team (GST) Report for February 21, 2026 Cabinet Meeting

Presented by: Lion Dr. Brenda Kay Toler, **District GST Coordinator**

- 1. Overview:** During this reporting period, many District OH5 clubs continued to demonstrate strong commitment to community service across all Lions global causes and local priorities. District leadership has emphasized 100% service reporting in MyLion and clubs are responding with consistent submissions that show broad and diverse service throughout Central Ohio.

Ensuring all clubs remain compliant with state and federal reporting while still focusing on service; some clubs need ongoing support with administrative requirements. 15 Clubs reported 1 service project since July 2025 and we know that is probably not accurate. This is probably due to lack of reporting. It was stressed that motivating lower-activity clubs to undertake at least one visible, community-centered project this quarter, got supported by zone chairs and district leadership.

District OH-5 Lions are living the “We Serve” motto through hands-on projects that feed neighbors, support vision and hearing, invest in youth, and strengthen whole communities across central and western Ohio.

2. Spotlight on Service in OH-5

Lions in OH-5 serve in 11 counties—Champaign, Clark, Darke, Delaware, Franklin, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Miami, Pickaway, and Union—through 47 clubs from small towns like Woodstock and Saint Paris to suburbs like Westerville and Grove City and busy Columbus neighborhoods. Clubs are identifying local needs and responding with practical, people-focused service. Each project may look different, but they share a common goal: making sure no neighbor is overlooked.

Vision, Hearing, and Health

Lions in OH-5 continue the historic commitment to being “Knights of the Blind” through vision and hearing projects that change lives. Clubs support eye exams and eyeglasses for individuals who cannot afford them, partner with local providers and the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank, and promote early detection of vision problems. Some clubs conduct vision screenings for preschool and school-age children, helping families catch issues before they interfere with learning. In addition to sight and hearing work, OH-5 Lions promote broader health initiatives such as diabetes awareness, health fairs, and support for those living with chronic conditions. These efforts often combine education, screening, and referrals so community members know where to turn for ongoing care.

Hunger Relief and Basic Needs

Hunger relief remains a core service area for many OH-5 clubs, reflecting the rising needs in both urban and rural communities. Clubs organize food drives, partner with local pantries, and support meal programs that ensure families, seniors, and children have reliable access to nutritious food throughout the year. District-level projects, including convention service initiatives, have focused on supporting organizations like community pantries and veteran-serving agencies, multiplying the impact when clubs work together.

Beyond food, many clubs address basic needs by providing household items, toiletries, and

emergency support for families facing crisis. These projects often grow out of direct relationships with schools, shelters, and social service agencies, and Veterans programs, allowing Lions to respond quickly and compassionately when needs emerge.

Youth, Leos, and Community Partnerships

OH-5 is home to an active network of Leo clubs—student-led service organizations that give young people a chance to serve and lead. These partnerships build a pipeline of future leaders and help students see themselves as part of something bigger than their own school or town.

Lions also collaborate with community partners and a wide variety of local nonprofits.

Environmental and Community Improvement Projects

Many OH-5 clubs undertake environmental and community improvement projects that make neighborhoods more beautiful, safe, and welcoming. Typical activities include park cleanups, tree planting, installing benches or playground equipment, and improving community spaces used by families and youth groups. These visible projects remind residents that Lions are neighbors they can count on when something in the community needs attention.

In addition, clubs step up when disasters or local emergencies arise, offering support through donations, volunteer labor, and coordination with local agencies. By staying flexible and responsive, OH-5 Lions ensure that their service can adapt quickly to changing circumstances and emerging needs.

An Invitation to Serve

With clubs stretching from Arcanum and Versailles to Delaware, Sunbury, and Reynoldsburg, there is a place for anyone who wants to serve within District OH-5. Community members who are passionate about vision care, hunger relief, youth development, veterans, the environment, or simply helping neighbors in need are encouraged to connect with a local Lions club or Leo club. Together, OH-5 Lions are proving that when caring people unite, even the biggest community challenges can be met with hope, dignity, and sustained action.

The district has been actively promoting all of LCI’s global causes:

3. Service Metrics & Reporting (as of February 2026)

| Metric | Value |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Total Service Activities | 413 |
| Total People Served | 147,996 |
| Percentage of Clubs Reporting | 100% |
| Number of Projects by Cause | 9 categories Administrative, Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Disaster Relief, Environment, Humanitarian, Hunger, Vision, and Youth |

Cause Breakdown Metrics:

- **Administrative:** 45 Service Activities – 704 People Served
- **Vision:** 47 Service Activities – 21,243 People Served
- **Hunger:** 87 Service Activities – 27,149 People Served
- **Environment:** 22 Service Activities - 23,805 people served
- **Diabetes:** 1 Service Activity - 0 people served
- **Childhood Cancer:** 8 Service Activities – 4,7000 people served
- **Disaster Relief / LCIF Support:** 4 Service Activities 1,250 people served
- **Humanitarian:** 163 Service Activities - 61,715 people served
- **Youth:** 36 Service Activities - 7,430 people served

4. Highlights of Top 5 Service Activities and People Served performing categories of Clubs

Troy has the highest **service** activities reported and Westerville has the most **people served**

Service Activities category total – 413

- a) *Troy - **58 Service Activities** People Served – 14,324
- b) Canal Winchester - 40 Service Activities People Served – 1,974
- c) Grove City – 25 Service Activities People Served – 3,809
- d) *Westerville – 24 Service Activities **People Served – 33,525**
- e) Tri- Village - 20 Service Activities People Served – 5,988

People Served category total - 147,996

- a) Westerville 33,525
- b) Troy 14,324
- c) Reynoldsburg 11,108
- d) Gahanna 10,377
- e) Marysville 10,233

5. District Challenges Identified

- Low service reporting in Club/Zone
- Lack of awareness around the global causes and new initiatives
- Inconsistent project documentation

- Difficulty engaging newer clubs in large-scale service

6. Strategies for the Remainder of the Year

- **Club Officer Training:** Focus on Portal usage and service planning.
- **Monthly Reporting Check-ins:** With zone chairs and club GSTs.
- **District Service Months:** Start planning for the 2026-2027 Club Year
- **Recognition Program:** For top-serving clubs and innovative projects.
- **Partnership Development:** Encourage clubs to partner with other organizations, etc.

7. Requests for Support from Cabinet

- Encourage all DG Team & Zone Chairs to emphasize **timely reporting**.
- Share successful service models to inspire underperforming clubs.
- Help facilitate **joint service projects** across clubs/zones.
- Support funding/visibility for district-wide service events.

8. Conclusion

Our clubs are serving with heart and passion. With continued teamwork, we can meet and exceed our service goals, amplifying our district's impact and strengthening the Lions legacy.

“Where there's a need, there's a Lion. Let's continue leading through service.”

The theme for Lions Clubs International for the 2025-2026 year is “The purpose of life is to have a life of purpose,” as introduced by the 2025-2026 International President, A.P. Singh. Additionally, the Peace Poster Contest theme for the same year is “Together As One,” promoting unity and collaboration among youth. “We are serving a world in need....one act of kindness at a time.” Keep up the good work OH-5!

Respectfully submitted,

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