

Report E-1

District Governor Report
November 10, 2018

Fellow Lions,

As of now, I am down to 16 clubs that I need to visit. I'm trying to get to them all; we'll see.

I was asked to give a brief report at the Council of Governors meeting about our district and how we are doing regarding the goals. Honestly, I could think of nothing but positive to say.

Yes, we have had our challenges. We lost Greenville, and that was a sad event – but most of those members transferred to Gettysburg, and the two communities will work together to meet the needs. A club that was in financial suspension was recovered, but there is a long ways to go to achieve normalcy there. Several others clubs are struggling and asking for help. A couple of clubs in trouble, one in particular, is choosing the route of blaming others for their problems instead of facing reality. A couple of others are out of compliance and not willing to do the work to get back into good standing with the government. Any organization will face difficulties, and we have our share.

But I look at the overall picture and am heartened. Every time there is something negative, an individual Lion or a club steps up and does something to address the issue.

Let's look at the big picture.

We are at minus 12 currently for membership, but I just learned that Delaware recruited 4 to 5 more recently to join. Plus, thanks to the efforts of Stu Koble and Joe Jackson, we have a very good chance to start at least a branch club in German Village. The goal of plus 7 for the year is very doable. Add to that, we have 35.2% who are women, one of the highest averages in the state. We can do better, but we are definitely on the right track. Women, minorities, specialty clubs...start thinking outside the box. We have a little over 4 months to get where we need to be.

Our signature district service project, the Super Braxton 5K, was the biggest in the state, both in terms of attendance and income. Adding in the phenomenal efforts from the Arcanum club and their Fun Walk, we raised over \$18,000 this year for pediatric cancer. We are also the only district who has multiple service projects available, including the Legos drive, vegetable seeds drive, 5K, diabetes training and free testing materials, vision screening equipment and training, and the STRIDES walk and first aid kit assembly at the convention. All run by different Lions, including Debbie Bolyard, Winston Brumbaugh, Jane Jarrow, Bob Medley, and Jackie Christensen.

Peggy Myers volunteered to take on the responsibility of get well and condolence cards for the district, another outreach program. I haven't utilized this yet, but we will start this process beginning now. Any illnesses, injuries, deaths, or other things involving a Lion, get the info and address to Peggy. This is an important service for the district to start doing.

The new district administrator position was filled by Stu Koble, and we are now one of three districts to have every club with at least one project reported; we are 2nd in the start in total service hours reported. He has done an amazing job.

Steve Kaplan, in addition to keeping us up with compliance in the district, has already begun work on the 2019 Learn to Roar, an important training for the district every year. Encourage people to attend, as it is open to all Lions! New classes, new instructors this year. Looking forward to it! We are also working on a Traveling Trainer program for those members who either can't or won't get to a district training, but who need the info.

The website has been great this year, thanks to Lee Bolyard.

Unfortunately, Jeff Brantner's health has taken a severe turn for the worse, and he had to step out of his role as OLF Executive Secretary after 35+ years. PCC Ben Cosgray has stepped into that role with the full support of the OLF Board. It has been a difficult year for the OLF, but the services never ceased; many items of business were still conducted throughout the transition.

Jason Gray and Jackie Christensen have done excellent jobs in their respective roles as 2nd and 1st VDGs, doing whatever is necessary to meet the club and district needs. The zone chairs: IPDG Joe Jackson, PDG Sheryl Schlater, Kathy Cosgray, Cathy Hill, Jane Jarrow, PCC Dave Risen, and Zone 7 co chaired by 2VDG Jason Gray and Stu Koble. What an amazing group of leaders! I have not worried about the clubs, because these folks worry enough for me, and when needed, taken immediate and effective action. I could name each cabinet member and the accomplishments, but I fear accidental omission, so just know, whether I identified you by name or not, I appreciate what you have done and continue to do.

No, I didn't say all this. (I only had 3 minutes!) Yes, I feel excited about the district, and could go on and on about how great the leadership is on the cabinet, and club, levels. I am blessed with an amazing cabinet and many incredible Lions, all of whom are making this a successful year for our district and the communities we serve. For the record, I don't look at this year as a competition between districts, either; I cite these comparisons only because you need something to measure success against. Four more months is a long enough time for every district to achieve their own successes, and each has in their way already.

I want to close with a story I heard at the Delaware Lions Pancake Breakfast. Eli, the young man who presented his incredible Peace Essay at the District Convention last year, had been bullied mercilessly due to his facial reconstructions and impairments. Winning the Peace Essay was one of the few highlights in his 13 years. But what transpired AFTER the convention was even more impactful.

The leadership of the Delaware Lions hooked up with Deb Hulvey, at the time the Pickerington Leos Community Club co-advisor, as Eli lives in Pickerington. The group welcomed him in, and it transformed him completely from a shy, withdrawn child to a confident young teen who had friends and a positive outlook on life. Had it not been for Emily and Joe Bruskotter of the Delaware Lions taking Eli under their wing and encouraging him, and Deb Hulvey facilitating on her end, this never would have happened.

We CAN make a difference, one person at a time.

DG Mike Kerek