

## E-1 District Governor Report

This has been a year faced with highs and lows. This roller coaster ride isn't over and won't be over for another 5 months. I'm hoping that, at the end, we glide into the finish smoothly, safely, and successfully.

Like any other DG, I would like to finish the year with positive numbers in all categories: training, LCIF donations, activity reporting and of course, membership. To those ends we have certainly had our high points. We now have the Marion Ohio Lions Club, our second new club in as many years. We are at 100% reporting as a district for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. Of all the 7 districts, we have the lowest number of clubs out of compliance. We have almost 20% of our club officers trained (which is considered high!) and 100% of our zone chairs trained. We donated \$5000 toward LCIF as a district through the Memorial Fund and over \$2200 to date through the "Ask" program I have been doing – the Lions have been very giving. And we have brought in 117 new members as of the writing of this report on 1/25/24.

But with peaks also come valleys. We have also had our challenges. Our club giving is way down on LCIF for some reason this year – I'm hoping that by the time we hit the end of February the tide will have turned and the club donations to LCIF will have increased. We need to have 100% of the clubs in compliance with the various governmental agencies, not just "most." We can't stop reporting activities, and our Learn to Roar conflicts with the Memorial Tournament this year, which will impact our numbers there.

Of most concern is the membership. We have lost 121 members as of 1/25/24, of which 23 were lost when Northwestern Lions Club decided to fold without warning in December 2023; and this does not account for the Delaware members that are going to be dropping. The majority of their members wanted to fold the club, but we have bought ourselves until June 30, 2024 to get that club rebuilt. **This has to be a priority.** Several Lions, including 2VDG Carl, ZC Gary Likens, ZC Charles Wells, and Lion Stu Koble have all agreed to help put feet on the ground and find new members to replace the ones we will be losing. If you can help with this cause, let Carl know. We cannot lose this club, a club that is sitting in the fastest growing area in our district!

We also have to get people to the convention. Promote the heck out of it. Let's make this a convention to remember, with a strong attendance and strong participation. As cabinet members, I would hope you will be there if at all possible to show your support as well.

We have a strong cabinet and have had a great year so far. But we can't take our foot off the gas. Complacency is simply not an option. I'm asking everyone to find the Lions that are out there but who have not joined or reengage folks who perhaps were members before and dropped out for some reason – get them back into the fold. *(For the record, I have brought in 3 new members this year. So I'm not asking anyone to do something I'm not doing myself.)* Help clubs that are struggling with your most valuable asset – time. They need our assistance in projects and in getting new members. While we all have "titles," the most important one is "Cabinet Member." This implies leadership, and the most effective leaders are NOT the ones pushing from behind. They are the ones pulling everyone along by example. Please – be that kind of leader!

- DG Mike