



We are excited to share that thoughtful planning has taken place at the State level highlighting a concentrated focus on impactful SERVICE activities that have been implemented this year. These are the following updates:

1. Extending the “Fall into Service” program beyond a weeklong program into a three-month campaign proved to be successful. OH-5 had 100 percent of clubs reporting. 496 Service Activities were reported and 148,854 people were served. Of the Seven Districts in Ohio, Districts OH-1, OH-3, OH-5, and OH-6 all met the 100 percent reporting goal as of February 2025.

Comparison of OH-5 to other Ohio Districts:

OH-1 657 Service Activities; 118,272 People served 100% Clubs Reporting
OH-2 755 Service Activities; 124,537 People served 75% Clubs Reporting
OH-3 553 Service Activities; 103,688 People served 100% Clubs Reporting
OH-4 898 Service Activities; 124,455 People served 97% Clubs Reporting
OH-5 496 Service Activities; 148,854 People served 100 % Clubs Reporting
OH-6 765 Service Activities; 228,675 People served 100% Clubs Reporting
OH-7 893 Service Activities; 158,149 People served 93% Clubs Reporting

2. OH-5 continues to capitalize on LCI President, Fabricio Oliveira’s theme of “Making Your Mark” by stressing that we partner with the Rotary, Kiwanis, and Optimists on service projects to make a dynamic difference in our communities. We will continue efforts to combine service projects with the Mission 1.5 campaign (to reach 1.5 million members worldwide).

OH-5 Administration- 59 Service Activities; 1,613 People served
OH-5 Childhood Cancer- 16 Service Activities; 10,805 People served
OH-5 Diabetes- 7 Service Activities; 1 Person served
OH-5 Disaster Relief- 7 Service Activities; 6,004 Persons served
OH-5 Environment -32 Service Activities; 12,755 Persons served
OH-5 Humanitarian- 195 Service Activities; 54,386 Persons served
OH-5 Hunger- 90 Service Activities; 30,312 Persons served
OH-5 Vision- 64 Service Activities; 27,945 Persons served
OH-5 Youth- 26 Service Activities; 5,023 Persons served

3. Continue our efforts of supporting college campus food pantries since the state-wide “Spreading Kindness” service project highlighted the need to address food insecurity among college students. A comprehensive list of college food pantries was distributed to assist clubs with their outreach efforts to colleges in their respective communities. It was brought to our attention that an updated college food pantry will be needed to be distributed in the future to include pantries across the state we were not aware of. Jane Jarrow shared a goal of creating a recipe resource to assist college students with preparing meals with the items that traditionally get donated to food pantries on their campuses. She hopes to get these recipe resources created by high school students free of cost. Watch for more information as a follow-up to last year’s state project.

4. Explore, research, and expand service activities to address and support Veterans' needs. We have been in contact with Adam Ruege, Director of Community Solutions and Len Proper of The Veteran Care Network (this non-profit does NOT receive funding from the government). Both agencies address the mission of supporting homeless veterans in our communities to achieve greater self-sufficiency. Both have stressed that Veterans want the focus on serving them to be expanded to include their families. The new President's Administration has begun making cuts to Veterans Affairs. More than 1,000 VA employees have been fired as of February 2025. Those let go include those researching cancer and addiction. So going forward these agencies will enlighten us about ways to serve Veterans in light of all these changes.

5. Implementing a state service project of planting one thousand trees this year, highlighted at the State Convention which would involve the creation of a "Picture Forest." This would involve collaborating with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Farm Bureau, etc. in an effort to get trees to plant. This initiative shows our support of LCI's global "environment" cause. Worthington Noon Lions shared their club has members leading the way with over one hundred trees planted in the Fall on a farm in Sunbury.

I emphasized all of these goals throughout the year by speaking about SERVICE at various Zone meetings and posting to the State Newsletter and Pride Report. I served as a resource to clubs by providing handouts that suggested service projects for clubs of all sizes, including Club Branches. I placed phone calls to clubs that had not reported service activities by the end of Fall. Some shared they have completed service projects but have not reported them due to new officers being in place and still learning to navigate the new Lion Portal. They shared they have planned training sessions or help for those still learning or growing into their new roles and responsibilities. We need to think creatively and explore ways for service projects to be implemented by others beyond the formal "traditional club" structures. I challenged clubs to think about creating service projects that enable both our "aging" Lions to participate and help recruit and engage younger Lions to get involved by changing meeting times, altering meeting formats, etc.

Respectfully Submitted,

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