

OH5 District Governor Report

In the first 4 months, OH5 has accomplished the following:

1. Started a new club, the Marion Ohio Lions Club with 21 new and 2 transferred members. Charter night will be 1/27/24, location and times TBD.
2. Membership has gone from minus 15 due to several large drops in the first week to plus 19 as of October 20. The plus membership can be attributed to the new club, but the district, club by club, has almost wiped out the initial deficit even without it.
3. The 2 Pizza Party Trainings netted 61 members covering 14 clubs getting training on orientation and Lions information, compliance, and service. With the Learn to Roar in June, we now have almost 130 Lions getting some training this year, our best year for training.
4. Our LCIF fundraising is significantly higher than normal. We have raised almost \$14,000 already, over 40% toward our goal of \$34,236, before the main allocations begin from the clubs.
5. Service reporting is around 60% right now, which is on track.
6. Our Super Braxton 5K has raised over \$12,000 so far (as of 10/20), with potential for more as we increase our participants. Our goal of netting \$10,000 may be met this year.

There is a momentum going on that we are riding, and numerous Lions are making it happen. PDG Lynn Thomas and 2VDG Carl Gass, along with assistance from CS Gary Holloway, started the new club. Gary and Carl stepped up to be Guiding Lions for them. GST Jane Jarrow, District Compliance Chair Steve Kaplan, and GLT PDG Jackie Miller were instrumental in the Pizza Party Trainings. ZC Steve Fifer is acting as a Guiding Lion for a struggling club, and has reached out to another. The Zone Chairs are getting out there, helping clubs in addition to their normal visitations, which is creating a higher morale in the clubs that is almost tangible. Too many names to drop – I could go on and on with the engagement of cabinet members making a difference. While there are a few clubs still struggling, many others are thriving and trying new things...with success.

I'm seeing a lot of clubs that are going to qualify for the Club Engagement Initiative this year, a new program we started to help clubs in trouble, and I'm excited about that.

I am working with a top-tier Cabinet, and am thankful every day to have amazing VDGs in Toni Gray and Carl Gass. They are going to be fantastic DGs themselves, but they are super supportive of this year's program. Having all of us on the same page makes it much easier to be effective and creative because that's what we all want!

We aren't perfect as a district by any set of standards. We have issues that have to get addressed and cleaned up. Other things will never change, and we have to figure out work-arounds that will mitigate the issues.

But this year is FUN! Exciting. There is energy. There is engagement. As long as we have these things, we can continue this adventure. I look forward to seeing how the rest of the year plays out, and look forward to continuing to be an active and integral part of the team.

Respectfully submitted,

OH5 DG Mike Kerek