

Extension Alternative

Plans for areas where LCI Extension Blitz Needs Modification

Some areas of Ohio are rural and don't have cities with business people to contact to start a Lions club. These areas still have small towns with the need for a Lions club. It will take a different approach to get a Lions club started. Here are some things to try. They just might work. Every small town has four things that can be a big help in getting a Lions club started. They are as follows:

1. Grocery store (the owner will know everyone in town and if there is a family that is in need of some help that a Lions club could provide.)
2. Church (the pastor will also be a source of information)
3. Volunteer Fire Department
4. Township Trustees
5. Local School Administrator

Remember people in small towns need to get to know you and this will take some time. When you go to talk to the owner of the grocery store remember to **buy something**. Then introduce yourself and tell them about Lions and what we do.

When you talk with the pastor of a church, remember in small towns the church is a large provider of community services. Be sure to inform the pastor that Lions are all about service too. Ask if there is a need for a project that the Lions could help with. Ask if you could attend a service on Sunday. After the service is over ask if you could provide some refreshments for fellowship and talk to the members of the church.

If the town has a volunteer fire department find out who is the Fire Chief and ask if you could attend one of their meetings and talk to the members about Lions Clubs and what we do. (Remember the fire department is made up of **volunteers too**)

All small towns in Ohio are part of a Township. Every Township has 3 Trustees and 1 Fiscal Officer. Find out where and when they have their meetings. Plan on getting on the agenda for a meeting. (Possibility of 4 good members)

All small towns are members of a school district. The superintendent, principal, and school board members are good possibilities for new members. Contact the superintendent or principal about being a member. Then find out when the board will be meeting and ask to be on the meeting agenda. At the meeting inform them that you are going to start a new Lions club and tell them what a Lions Club could do for the schools. (Good Program, Quest Program, Leo Clubs).

If you find out that there is a need in the community that a Lions club could help. Go to the nearest Lions Club and ask for help. This will show the community that Lions can help make a difference and make their town stronger.

Script for Personal Visits In Small Towns

In addition to the above suggestions for contacts in a small community the following script can be used when talking with these individuals. You will find that this is very similar to the script used for the LCI Extension workshops.

Introduce yourself (name, hometown, and that you are representing Lions Clubs).

Thank the person for taking their time to listen to you.

Tell them that you are in their community to start a Lions Club. Ask them if they know what a Lions Club is? Then inform them that a Lions Club is a community service club made up of community members (men and women) who would like to make a difference in the well being of the community.

Tell them that the local members of the club operate each Lions Club and they decide what service projects the club wants provide. Each club decides what fundraisers the club will use to support those service projects. Make sure they understand that 100% of the funds that are raised from the community are returned to the community. (*i.e.*, Eyeglasses for those in need, needed funds for Schools, Fire departments)

The cost to be a Lion is a one-time entry fee of \$30.00 and yearly dues of \$5 to \$7 per month depending on what the local club decides for their local dues.

Ask them to join and ask for the \$30.00.