



MULTIDISTRICT 13, OH 3 LIONS

DISTRICT GOVERNOR JOSIE PROKOP

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Lions of OH3:

Thank you for the support and encouragement you have given me throughout the year. I have learned so much working with you and am continually inspired by your willingness to meet the challenges brought before you. So much has been accomplished and I am thrilled to see what the next two months will bring. The motto for my year as Governor is "It Starts with One". I wanted everyone to recognize that any action or service they perform has a greater impact than you realize. The District proved the motto is accurate.

With your hard work and dedication, we successfully launched our first ever STEPS walk to benefit Childhood Cancer Research. The funds raised by the District will be used by Akron Children's Hospital, Rainbow Babies and Children's and the newly formed OLPCR (Ohio Lions Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation). The first ever grant by OLPCR will be given to Rainbow Babies. More than ½ of the clubs in our District worked on the event by either advertising, volunteering, participating or providing funds to underwrite the project. All expectations were exceeded. What an accomplishment!

Our District held its first 'in person' Guiding Lions training in November. We certified over a dozen Guiding Lions from all over the District to serve for the next few years. We had plans to hold membership meetings this week and next in various parts of the District and get those GL's assigned, but one or two things stopped that from happening (Covid-19, quarantines, social distancing). Don't worry, we're still talking about how to start that process up in a safe manner.

Our District took on the challenge of a second District Project to serve Lions Global Causes. This time, we tackled hunger. Throughout the District, candy bar sales were held raising enough money to feed more than 10,000 people (that was well over 7500 candy bars sold!). We were scheduled to have the food packing event with RISE AGAINST HUNGER on the last day of our convention. Unfortunately, that did not occur. However, we are looking to reschedule the event in mid-June. If we are not able to pack the food (due to Covid-19), we will donate the funds to supply the food to all those people or perhaps do it at another time.

Speaking of Covid-19, I was very impressed with the way our clubs stepped up to serve. I asked the clubs to let me know what they were doing to serve in this time of need. I received emails from several clubs telling me about their work providing additional food and cleaning supplies to their communities. Several clubs explained their 'calling trees' to reach out to Lions and other

members of the community for wellness checks and a bit of conversation. Others made donations to food pantries where needed items could be purchased. Others are writing letters and notes to people in assisted living or nursing homes. I did not have a single club tell me that they were suspending service work. I should have known... we are Lions and we serve.

As you may be aware, we had planned to hold Officer Training on May 2 (big announcements and registrations were not sent out... for obvious reasons). Rather than forego the training entirely, our creative and dedicated Lions are working on the possibility of using computer-based resources (probably Zoom) to hold and record the classes. More information on that will be coming soon as the 'test runs' should be happening in the next week or so.

Clubs are still meeting through Zoom, Go to Meeting and regular conference calls. Elections are currently underway for the District and in the clubs. Please do not forget to report your club officers to LCI and send an email to our VDG Terry Snyder with your officers. She and her team will be working on next year's directory and want as much information as early as possible. Let's also try to get 100% club officer reporting for her to start her year (this means filing your PU-101 with LCI).

Clubs are also submitting their Parade of Check donations to Lion Roger from the Medina Lions. He will be tallying and distributing the donations to the appropriate groups. Once we close out elections, we will announce the grand totals donated in the Parade of Checks.

We are looking into the possibility of holding a one-day District celebration. We are hoping for either June 13 or June 14, so mark your calendars. We should know if this is possible after May 1. Hopefully we will be able to do our Hunger Project and I will be able to present very deserving awards to members of the District and perhaps we'll all lift our voices in song to sing a Happy 100<sup>th</sup> to Akron Host Lions.

This report is lengthy but not yet done. Our Lions year does not end until June 30, 2020. We need to work together to get this District in the best shape it can be so VDG Terry can start her year off and running.

#### Here's what I would like you to do before June 30:

1. Hold your club officer elections and report them (PU-101)
2. Send an email to VDG Terry or to [OH3Lions@gmail.com](mailto:OH3Lions@gmail.com) with your results (I will forward them to her)
3. Increase your membership so that by June 30 you are at +1 membership and fill out your Club Excellence Application

Every club in this District would be eligible for Club Excellence if the membership number was +1 or greater... you've worked all year and earned this award, don't let membership numbers stand in your way! I sent the forms to each club a few times this year but if you can't find them let me know.

4. Report your Service for this Lions year.... You can report anything you've done since July 1, 2019. I recently attended an excellent webinar that lasted about 20 minutes on how to report. The webinar went step by step (yes Cambridge Lions, this is the visual training we were talking about). I am going to send each club a link to this webinar. It will be available when we do our Officer Training and each Zone Chair will have this information. PLEASE REPORT YOUR SERVICE. There is no reason that we can't have 100% of clubs reporting. You do the work, now let the world know.
5. Tell someone you are a Lion and what it means to you. You've worked hard and truly made an impact on your Community, Zone and District. It shouldn't be a secret. Share your Lionism and inspire others to be able to help serve.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank each of you for the continued support, encouragement and ideas you have shared with me this year. You have stepped up to each challenge given. You have taken rough ideas and made them workable projects. You have shared your knowledge and used creativity to find so many ways to serve. We still have two more months before this year ends. Let's keep the momentum going and ramp up our service, reporting and membership.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me or anyone on the Cabinet if we can be of service.

Thank you for all that you do. It is an honor to serve as your Governor.

District Governor Lion Josie Prokop

*DG Lion Josie Prokop*

MD-13, District OH3