

District 24L Zone I Final Report

Submitted by Zone Chair Dan Visone

Current Stats:

Current Total Members = 185, YTD Add = 14, YTD Drop = 26, YTD Net Growth = -12

We held our fourth and final Zone meeting on May 12th. All four Zone meetings were held virtual this Lion Year. Topics for this Zone meeting included:

1. Officer's Training
2. 2021-2022 Slate
3. Zone synchronization update
4. Final review of your SWOT analysis - what went well, what were some challenges, what did you implement that will continue into next year
5. Update since last Zone meeting - membership, fundraisers, service projects,

I reinforced the importance of having the 2021-2022 Slate of Officers selected, voted in, with information provided to International – all that has been completed. We talked about the schedule and importance of officer training. I also told the clubs that they should be working with their incoming Presidents on next year's committee assignments, next year's budget, and next year's calendar. Both the Evening and Greater Falls Run Lions will have a returning President that took over this year for different reasons (one President passed away and one moved).

We reinforced the importance of the SWOT analysis and the action plan that was worked throughout the year. Greater Falls Run Lions are working to approach another retirement community across Route 17 for potential members.

We discussed the efforts this year to synch our collective clubs' efforts to support Stafford Community – through Eye Exam/Glasses, Eye Glass Collection Boxes, School Scholarships, Peace Posters, Music Scholarships, Leo Clubs, I talked about making a Zone Facebook page to get the work out to Stafford County on the above and market the Zone as the collective of four clubs helping the community.

We discussed the Joint Project with Zone J supporting Empowerhouse. This is a GOOD news story, with me and ZC Bobby Anderson working across Zones for a community need to support Empowerhouse with an updated HVAC. Between the clubs in the two Zones, a few individual Lions, and LCIF grant and matching LOVF grant, the Lions will donate over \$21,000 for this urgent need!

We talked about Awards and the timelines to provide to the Zone Chair. I will reinforce with message to the President's and Secretaries in June.

And we finished talking about what we learned this year going through a pandemic. From cancelling in-person fundraisers to dealing with technology to continue meeting, we tried to look at lesson-learned and best practices. Probably one of the big takeaways was to try and continue with hybrid meetings in the future as we start meeting in person. Each club in my Zone had varying success in frequency and type of meetings from never cancelling a meeting at all, to some outside, to just having the Board meet virtually. Some had issues with IT which caused issues holding virtual meetings. But I believe virtual is here to stay and we, the Lions, will need to become more tech savvy, or find that member that can help meet the needs of the virtual Lion. I also think this might require an investment in IT for the club with recommendations/best practices shared across the District. There was also discussion on re-looking current fundraisers/service projects for relevancy. I do think that this year offered the club and members time to reflect of what the club has been doing and how to innovatively transition into the future. There was discussion about relooking membership and dues structures – expecting every member to be at every meeting is probably a thing of the past and we need to make sure that our clubs can provide tailored opportunities to each member based on the time they can provide and the skills they bring.

Some of the other challenges we saw this Lions year –harder to find/approach/recruit new members – need to look for ways to teach clubs how to do it virtually; transparency in the club when meetings stop and the importance of communication – just like family members, during the pandemic, we should have continually reached out to members to see how they are and communicate what is going on – need that sense of belonging. All clubs are still having challenges getting volunteers to step up in leadership positions. I think this is all across the district and not sure how to resolve this – it really comes down to succession planning and building a culture in the club where people will want to volunteer – understanding that not all want or need to lead.

** I would recommend the District collect AND publish lessons-learned and best practices over the last year AND look to use that information to shape your training at the Conferences and the information the District provides on the website and through Chairs.

It was an honor to work with these four amazing clubs this year and greatly appreciated all they did during a very challenging year to make a difference in our community.

Respectfully,

Lion Dan Visone

Zone I Chair, District 24L