



District 24-L Zone A Meeting Minutes

via Zoom

Thursday, August 28, 2025, 7:00 pm

Lions In Attendance:

Alicia Fitzpatrick, McLean Fil-Am Lions Club
Mary Kate Harris, Mt. Vernon Evening Lions Club
John Harris, Mt. Vernon Evening Lions Club
PDG Woody Woodard, Mason Neck Lions Club
PCC Glen Logan, Alexandria Asian American Lions Club
Nanatte Yu, Alexandria Asian American Lions Club
Alicia Calayag, Alexandria Asian American Lions Club
Chris Poston, Springfield-Franconia Host Lions Club
DG Dan Visone, District 24-L & Aquia Harbor Host Lions Club
Charlene Heeter, Springfield-Franconia Host Lions Club
Sharron Fussell, Mason Neck Lions Club
James Fussell, Mason Neck Lions Club
Lisa Romano, Alexandria-Lincolnia Lions Club
Edna Guerrero, Alexandria Asian American Lions Club
Mike Huffman, Mt. Vernon Evening Lions Club

Call to Order

ZC Mike Huffman called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00. He referenced the brief agenda that he included with the meeting invite:

- Fall Conference & Zone Fundraising Basket;
- District Awards;
- Intra-Zone Cooperation; and
- Membership Growth

Business

After introductions, ZC Mike delved into the upcoming Fall Conference agenda topic. The Conference will be on September 27th and he emphasized that all Lions on the Zoom call should encourage their fellow Lions to attend the conference: the conference is close to our zone area and offers opportunities for learning and interaction. To emphasize the ease of registering for the conference and to show off the new District 24-L website (<https://lionsdistrict24l.org/>), ZC Mike shared his screen and walked through several of the features of the website. The registration process on the website includes the option to pay by credit card.

District leadership hoped to raise funds at the conference for various charities and to provide a contribution to the host venue by having each zone bring a basket to be raffled off. Each zone ideally would prepare a basket valued at \$150- \$160; and several suggested themes were provided in the basket request notice. ZC Mike, in a very undemocratic and uncollaborative gesture, hijacked the proceedings and decreed that Zone A would provide a beer basket, specifically a “Zone A Beer Basket.”

Within the geographic area of Zone A are several breweries, including Port City, Fairwinds, and Bunnyman. DG Dan reminded us all not to overlook Aslin Brewing Co., which is across the street from Port City. Lion Mary Kate suggested that we provide a cooler instead of a basket. Each club is asked to contribute \$20 towards the basket – checks can be sent to Reba Morse at Mt. Vernon Evening Lions. Her address is 8009 Apollo Street, Mason Neck, VA 22079.

DG Dan explained that the proceeds from the baskets will be donated to multiple charities including a domestic violence shelter, a homeless shelter, a childhood cancer project, and Leader Dog, as well as a contribution to Saint Peter’s Lutheran Church for providing the conference venue. DG Dan also highlighted the other Fall Conference charity project – collection of “bed-in-a-bag” bedsheets for the local homeless shelter.

ZC Mike again shared his screen to highlight features of the new website, this time focusing on leadership training and the awards area. ZC Mike discussed the importance of reviewing award requirements for various positions, like secretary and treasurer, emphasizing that striving for awards can improve service quality. He highlighted the availability of training opportunities, including the USA-Canada Leadership Forum and Club Officer Training, encouraging members to utilize these resources for better participation in club activities. Lion Chris and DG Dan also highlighted the new website, managed by PCC Glen Logan and Sally Coney Anderson, and noted the “Web of Heroes” page showcasing leadership team visits and “Spidey Dan” token presentations.

Interzone cooperation, ZC Mike believes, could enhance and improve all of our clubs. He highlighted upcoming vision and hearing testing at Polk Elementary on September 9th and 11th, and encouraged volunteers to coordinate with Lion John Harris (Mt. Vernon Evening) or PDG Lion Jim Snyder (Mason Neck). He emphasized the importance of club collaboration, using the example of the flea market cooperation between AAA, Springfield-Franconia Host, and Springfield Global. ZC Mike also addressed the need for interzone cooperation in running the upcoming Bland contest, noting that Alexandria Host might need assistance. He stressed the value of supporting each other across clubs and suggested designating a service director for individual projects to coordinate between clubs.

A perennial topic is membership growth. ZC Mike spoke about an event that he, Lion Mary Kate and Lion John attended – Supervisor Dan Storck’s “Summerpalooza.” The event yielded a prospect, and although that prospect ultimately declined to join the Lions, ZC Mike emphasized how easy it was to get someone to attend a dinner meeting. PCC Glenn, the global membership team chair, offered support and resources, including AI tools for creating brochures and training on AI at the Fall Conference. The group discussed the upcoming competition, “Each One Bring One,” to bring one prospect to a meeting, highlighting the effectiveness of simply inviting people to attend social events and service events can lead them to join clubs.

Discussion reverted to the beer basket, with talk of a potential beer tasting event, and with ZC Mike coordinating the purchase of 24 bottles/cans from breweries in Zone A. The group agreed with Lion Mary Kate’s suggestion to use a cooler instead of a basket, but the winners would have to provide their own ice! ZC Mike identified several breweries to visit, including Fairwinds, Port City, Aslan, and Atlas, and will send an email to the zone to gather help for brewery visits. The group considered maybe having two coolers and discussed the possibility of holding future zone meetings at breweries to increase attendance!

The Bland contest came up again, focusing on securing a venue, judges, and participants. ZC Mike noted that while the Lyceum in Old Town was used last Lions year, but we may need to explore alternative venues like Groveton Baptist Church. Lion Sharon offered to contact potential judges, including Arthur Lisey and Harvey Jacobson, once a date is set. The group also discussed the contest’s eligibility criteria, which include students aged 5 to 18 for both instrumental and vocal categories, with instrumental judging being the focus for their group.

General discussion of the Bland contest continued, with emphasis on the structure of the event. It is a music competition for students from grade school through high school, focusing on both instrumental and vocal performances. Judges should be professional musicians or music instructors themselves, with experience of competing and performing at professional levels. The discussion covered the contest’s structure, including how winners are selected at district and state levels, with confirmation that each district now selects 4 candidates rather than 2. The conversation concluded with suggestions for finding backup judges and identifying potential contestants through local music schools, with Lion Reba mentioned as having a list of private schools in the area.

Adjournment:

In a brief nod to parliamentary procedure, ZC Mike asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at approximately 8:00 pm.

Reported by ZC Mike Huffman.