

2025 First Cabinet Report – Zone M

September 20, 2025

The first Zone Meeting for clubs in Zone M was conducted on September 11 at Bryce Resort in Basye, Virginia.

Clubs represented included:

Broadway – 2 Lions present
New Market – 2 Lions present
Basye-Bryce Mountain – 5 Lions present

Sadly, Harrisonburg Lions, the 4th club in the Zone was not represented, nor did anyone from the club respond to multiple messages regarding the meeting. This has been the experience of this Zone Chair with regards to the Harrisonburg Club. Increased effort will be made in the future in attempts to include them in Zone activities, so Lions can hear what Harrisonburg Lions are doing and so they can hear about exciting Zone and District activities and events.

The meeting began with a review of the 8 Global Causes of Lions. The meeting then turned to a discussion of three of these causes – Vision, Youth and Hunger – because of where we are in the club year.

Vision – Both New Market and Basye Bryce are very involved in the school screen program in Shenandoah County. Data was shared and discussed regarding the challenges the hearing screeners are experiencing this year due to the Virginia State changes to the testing standards. Further discussion took place regarding the new OAE audiometer covered in the District Governor's Listen Up session #3. Lion Mary Beth Schwab, Treasurer of LOVE, share the activities of some clubs/Zones in seeking matching grants to cover the procurement of an OAE audiometer.

The Broadway club is not involved with school screening, as Rockingham Public School System has not welcomed the Lions screening program. There was some discussion of trying to revisit this valuable service with school administrators. Broadway does other screening at various health and community-focused fairs and events.

Participants discussed various ways Lions serve their communities with a focus on **Vision** beyond screen, including Leader Dogs, Balls for All, Eyeglass Assistance Programs, eyeglass collection and recycling.

There was a break in discussion to welcome Peace Poster Chair Jeff Root to the meeting via Zoom. Lion Jeff gave a good presentation surrounding the goals of the project and the administrative procedures for conducting a contest. Both Broadway and Basye are interested in working with the schools to offer the program. This is another project focused on **Youth**.

Club representatives discussed the ways their clubs are beginning to focus on **Hunger** as we move into the holiday season of our club years. Lions Mary Beth reminded those present that LOVF stands to multiply their efforts in distributing food in their communities.

There was time for brief discussion regarding new projects and fundraisers being considered by the participating clubs. Broadway shared that they are embarking on a huge undertaking by taking over the community activities and events previously administered through the Broadway Community Partnership which was recently dissolved. They were preparing for a community festival the upcoming weekend. Basye is preparing for a Duck Race on Little Stoney Creek in support of the local fire and rescue station.

In closing, we spoke briefly of Lions newest Global Cause – Mental Health. A Basye member, Lion Rebecca Harrigal, has started a group for young adults grappling with life's challenges, such as finances, meaningful relationships, healthy activities, etc. The group is expanding to Harrisonburg and Strasburg from Mount Jackson, with an impressive list of presenters and facilitators. Lion Rebecca will be a presenter at the District Winter Conference.

Submitted by Zone M Chair

Winnie McDermott