



District 24-L Zone A Meeting Minutes

via Zoom

Thursday, November 13, 2025, 7:00 pm

Lions In Attendance:

Sam Wiseman, Springfield Franconia Host Lions Club
Minerva Banga, Springfield Franconia Host Lions Club
Chris Poston, Springfield-Franconia Host Lions Club
Alicia Fitzpatrick, McLean Fil-Am Lions Club
Mary Kate Harris, Mt. Vernon Evening Lions Club
John Harris, Mt. Vernon Evening Lions Club
1VDG Chuck Schwab, District 24-L & Broadway Lions Club
PCC Glen Logan, Alexandria Asian American Lions Club
Alicia Calayag, Alexandria Asian American Lions Club
Charlene Heeter, Springfield-Franconia Host 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:

- Topics from the prior night's Zone Chair's meeting;
- November Membership Month;
- Intra-Zone Club Cooperation; and
- Treasures' Reporting and Transparency

Business

ZC Mike discussed the November 12th Zone Chair meeting led by District Governor Dan, emphasizing the importance of two membership "prongs" for November's Membership Month. He mentioned that 1st Vice District Governor Chuck and PCC Glenn were present at that meeting, too.

The Zone Chair meeting highlighted a worrisome decline in overall membership for the District. We are currently down a net 29 members – although some Clubs may have added Lions, overall, we have lost more than we have gained. One Club is in such a poor state that it is considering turning in its charter. DG Dan stressed that we need a two-prong approach to membership: growth, bringing in new members; and retention, keeping the members that we have. ZC Mike spoke of his personal experience that it is charismatic members who “sell” Lionism and bring in new members. We all cannot be charismatic, but we all should try to do what we can. Each Lion hopefully has a “sales pitch” with which they can easily explain what Lions are and what we do.

Retention is almost as hard as finding new members, and might involve more finesse and flexibility. Keeping Lions engaged is important, and as we all age we might have to change our expectation of what members can do. Many of us now have health issues or are caring for loved ones with health issues, and so cannot make all meetings. Sometimes Zoom calls, like this one, offer a measure of flexibility to help with that. Also accepting what a Lion can do now – instead of what they did in the past – is important. ZC Mike hopes that we can find a role for all who want to participate. ZC Mike tried to use the image of an orchard to illustrate our membership issues: it takes lots of effort to plant the trees, and lots of time for them to yield fruit, but even once a tree produces fruit it still needs maintenance and care to keep on producing.

ZC Mike suggested that the tools on both the District 24-L and the LCI websites might help with retention, just as they can with membership growth. There are templates for brochures and business cards that we can download and print. LCI has access to an AI tool to help identify service opportunities.

The group discussed strategies to increase membership, including distributing flyers at the Lions Flea Market and at local businesses. ZC Mike emphasized the need for clubs to take proactive actions and suggested reviewing a recent email from District leadership to share with members. Lion Chris mentioned celebrating members' anniversaries and birthdays with certificates and chevrons to recognize long-term members. The desire to balance local needs with international concerns was brought up, especially considering that recycled eyeglasses are usually sent abroad because a doctor's prescription is needed to dispense glasses in the United States. 1VDG Chuck emphasized that each club should focus on its unique passions and interests rather than adhering to a strict global vs. local approach. He shared an example of a club that found new purpose and enthusiasm by identifying and focusing on their specific goals.

Moving on to Intra-Zone Club Cooperation, ZC Mike wanted to discuss the Bland Contest. He noted that neither Alexandria Host nor Mason Neck were on the call, and he believes that those clubs have the institutional history to run an effective competition. It was noted that the District also has resources to help set up a contest. Discussion of intra-zone cooperation included the Lions Flea Market held in the parking lot of the Backlick Road VRE Station on Hechinger Drive, and the Eyeglass Recycling Center of Northern Virginia. It was also noted that these two activities include clubs from outside our Zone.

Lastly, discussion moved on to Treasurers' Reporting duties and transparency. ZC Mike noted that in preparation for this agenda topic he reviewed the Treasurer's Training on the LCI website. He noted that one of the photos accompanying the presentation slides featured a Lion with a “ball-for-all” ball, and complemented 1VDG Chuck on the success of the program. 1VDG Chuck noted that 342

balls have been sponsored and delivered, with 200 more balls on the way! He also mentioned an upcoming visit to the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind to showcase Lions' initiatives.

PCC Glen took over from here, and noted that IRS Form 990-N (e-postcard) was due November 17th (since the 15th fell on a Saturday). PCC Glen noted that filing requires smartphone verification and login.gov or ID.me accounts. ZC Mike noted that if Treasurers/Clubs did not have the right log-in credentials, they could still file paper versions of IRS Form 990-EZ, it just involves more work. PCC Glen also reminded everyone of the upcoming Winter Conference on January 10th in Winchester. The focus will be on disaster preparedness and mental health in the morning, and leadership and retention in the afternoon. Registration is open on the District 24-L website.

ZC Mike noted the need for transparency in the Treasurers' reports, and for availability of the reports. He noted that club members might wish to know that status of donations, the availability of funds compared to budgeted or planned outlays, or the general status of Club monetary resources. They may want this information in order to form better, appropriate, and intelligible motions for the Club to vote on for the disbursement of funds in reaction to an event that necessitates a need for aid, like a flood or a hurricane.

ZC Mike cautioned about placing restrictions on donations. Aid contributions from clubs might arrive at a stage where the restrictions are inhibiting rather than liberating. For example, if a club send a check with the restriction "for blankets to aid those displaced by flooding in the Spring of this year," and there isn't a need to provide blankets for those people anymore, the money cannot be used. It's better to note that any donation to LCIF, to the local state fund, or to a local club is for Lions' activities.

Adjournment:

In a brief nod to parliamentary procedure, ZC Mike asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at approximately 8:05 pm.

Reported by ZC Mike Huffman.