



District 24-L Zone A Meeting Minutes

via Zoom

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 7:00 pm

Lions In Attendance:

Sam Wiseman, Springfield-Franconia Host Lions Club
Minerva Banga, Springfield-Franconia Host Lions Club
Chris Poston, Mt. Vernon Evening Lions Club
Mary Kate Harris, Mt. Vernon Evening Lions Club
Rose Lucas, Springfield-Franconia Host Lions Club
PCC Glen Logan, Alexandria Asian American Lions Club
Alicia Calayag, Alexandria Asian American Lions Club
DG Dan Visone, District 24-L & Aquia Harbor Host Lions Club
Lisa Romano, Alexandria-Lincolnia Lions Club
Maribel Macasero, McLean Fil-Am Lions Club
Reba Morse, Mt. Vernon Evening Lions Club
Foster Morse, Mason Neck Lions Club
Mike Huffman, Zone Chair & Mt. Vernon Evening Lions Club

Call to Order

ZC Mike Huffman called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00. A brief agenda was embedded in the Zoom meeting invite:

- Leadership, including leadership development and identifying Lions for leadership roles
- Recap of the Winter Conference
- Upcoming State Convention in Bristol, VA

Business

After some technical issues were sorted out, and after a brief bit of friendly conversation about club activities, ZC Mike stated that the meeting was prompted by an email from LCI stating that zones should hold a meeting in February to address leadership specifically. The ZC hoped that the discussion would foster leadership growth within the organization by sharing experiences and recognizing talent. He hoped that participants would contribute knowledge and insights.

Given that, the Zone Chair thought it easier to break the ice and start discussions by focusing on fundraising for the State Convention – specifically, Buy Ducks!!

LCIF is sponsoring a virtual rubber duck race, to be run at the May event in Bristol. Each club is encouraged to “buy” a duck, and individual Lions can buy ducks, too. This can be done through the District 24-L webpage ([Lions District 24-L – Lions of Virginia](#)).

Concurrent with the LCIF fundraiser, Lions of Virginia Foundation (LOVF) is selling raffle tickets with the drawing to take place during the State Convention, May 28th through 31st. Mike noted that the special hotel room rate cut-off is (was) March 7th.

ZC Mike noted that he purchased his virtual duck at the Winter Convention, which was January 10th in Winchester, VA. He spoke highly of the convention, and gave a very brief recap of some of the topics that speakers addressed. Food insecurity is a grave concern throughout the District – a convention project was to have each participant bring a bag of canned goods – and it is at all levels, from children who are only sure of a meal through school, to government employees who face uncertainty during shutdowns. Other speakers addressed mental health concerns and DEA drug take-back programs.

Another topic from the Winter Conference was disaster preparedness. A speaker from a church group talked about assembling disaster kits, and how this could be both a fund raiser and a project that involved Leos. ZC Mike noted that part of disaster preparedness is knowing what to do, who to contact, and how to help. Help often involves sending cash, which can be augmented with LOVF grants. To make the grants effective, Lions need to know the requirements – relief aid for a recent disaster was held up because a prior grant wasn't fully used, and couldn't be used, because of the way the grant was worded. Limitations like this apply to donations, too, and ZC Mike stressed that in giving for disaster relief we often need to trust fellow Lions to do the right thing and not put overly strict limitations on how funds can be used. It does no good to send a donation to an impacted local club with the stipulation that the funds only be used for tents when need for temporary housing has passed.

The mention of Leos and Leo clubs sparked discussion of how hard it was to find sponsors for school-based clubs. Lion Chris noted that the Leos club Springfield-Franconia had sponsored disbanded when the school sponsor retired. The group also discussed the potential for establishing community-based Leo clubs for young people interested in service.

Leadership was the impetus for this Zone meeting. The group discussed leadership qualities and responsibilities, with ZC Mike emphasizing the importance of continuous training and learning, even for experienced leaders. Lion Sam added that accountability and transparency are crucial in non-profit organizations, and ZC Mike agreed, stressing the value of open communication and respect among Lions. The discussion highlighted the need for leaders to be approachable and receptive to feedback, even when faced with challenging questions or situations.

The group also discussed leadership challenges, particularly focusing on time management and delegation. Lion Mary Kate noted that people often avoid leadership roles due to time commitments, while ZC Mike shared insights from a Zoom meeting with DG Dan and other leaders, confirming that it's possible to be a district governor while working, though it requires better time

management. The discussion emphasized the importance of delegation, with DG Dan and ZC Mike agreeing that effective leaders should delegate responsibilities to their team members rather than micromanaging or taking on everyone's duties themselves. Delegation, especially when tasks are shared with younger Lions, can also help develop leaders to assume roles later. Someone quipped that if you wanted something done, give it to the busiest person – they have too much to do to let your project sit! (They also probably have pretty good time management skills).

Lion Lisa brought up the challenges facing a small club, which is struggling with attendance and member engagement. She mentioned challenges with fundraising, meeting coordination, and membership retention, as well as the need to balance responsibilities due to limited resources. The group acknowledged the difficulties of maintaining a small club and suggested personal engagement and the use of technology like Zoom for meetings as potential solutions. DG Dan recommended partnering with other organizations for service projects and suggested seeking help from clubs in the zone or the district to grow membership.

The group discussed the challenges faced by small clubs, including a lack of membership and visitation chairs, limited funds, and difficulties organizing various events. Lion Lisa expressed concerns about club members' reluctance to participate in fundraisers, and it was suggested that she try involving other clubs and organizations for support. PCC Glen and DG Dan both emphasized the importance of service projects in attracting new members, and they offered to help with membership and service initiatives. The discussion also highlighted leadership principles, with PCC Glen and ZC Mike drawing parallels to President Kennedy's motivating moon landing speech and the significance of clear vision, teamwork, and continuous effort in achieving goals.

Discussion turned to leadership development and upcoming initiatives. DG Dan discussed membership growth efforts, including an "Each One Bring One" contest and a potential March Madness membership challenge. The group also covered various service projects, including a state convention initiative to create care bags for homeless veterans and domestic violence survivors, and the implementation of the Listen Up program for hearing screening in preschoolers.

In closing, everyone was reminded of the various training resources available, both through LCI and the District. The Lions of Virginia 24-L website is a treasure-trove of useful information.

Adjournment:

In a brief nod to parliamentary procedure, ZC Mike asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at approximately 8:15 pm.

Reported by ZC Mike Huffman.