



MD 33 GST COMMITTEE 2020 - 2021 REPORT

Progress on Committee Goals

1. Develop a means of communicating resources, sharing ideas and celebrating the service projects occurring in each District and the MD

This goal was addressed early on. Each member was provided with a copy of the LCI expectations of a GST. We created a Facebook page (MD33 LIONS WE SERVE), a gmail address (MD33LionsServe@gmail) and have developed and distributed to committee members for use in their sub districts a calendar highlighting the service focus areas for each month. Our first MD-wide service project kicked off in early fall via our new FB page-Acts of Kindness to others. We feel these resources could be better utilized, and we hope the DGs will continue to assist us in getting the word out. Our plan to develop a google doc of resources has not yet come to fruition.

2. Develop the infrastructure and (hopefully) implement at least one MD-wide service project within one of the five service focus areas

a. To increase vision screening infrastructure, we hosted one KidSight certified screener training and plan another for May 1, where Lions from Europe and CA will also join us. Dr. Ed Cordes, one of the KidSight founders, will again be conducting this training. 25 Lions from 3 of our 5 Districts completed the first live webinar and a few others reviewed the online materials and took the test independently. Badges for successful attendees were mailed out.

b. MD Project: talks are ongoing with Joslin Boston, in conjunction with Joslin Syracuse, ID Gary Brown, and Lions from MD 33 and MD 20. We still anticipate the project proposal and LCIF grant application will be completed by year end.



Joslin Harvard is interested in building a Diabetes specialty Club and those preparations are ongoing.

3. Encourage, support, and provide resources to have at least one service project occur at each midwinter and at the state convention

All midwinters and State Conventions were/will be held virtually, so no service projects could be held at these events. However, 3 Districts did have ongoing service projects that Clubs could distantly participate in during these times.

4. Support our Clubs in their reporting efforts with a goal of at least 50% of our Clubs MD-wide reporting service; taking a pro-active, positive approach doing so and monitoring the progress toward this goal on at least a quarterly basis

Increasing reporting percentages continues to be challenging, but we did recently hit 51% overall. Individual District percentages are: 33Y 33%, A 36%, N 36%, K 96% and S 53%. Despite the limited reporting, we have served just short of 898K people through 2547 projects, encompassing over 47K service hours. Two districts-S and K-have been following up Club by Club and utilizing ZC/RCs to help support Clubs' reporting needs. 33N hosted an additional Club reporting session in February. 33K held a midwinter seminar on Club reporting and has shared this presentation with all interested districts. Taking a positive, proactive approach has been effective where utilized.

5. Collaborate with the other GAT members, LCIF and NAMI to increase success within the MD and to further our shared objectives

Working on this goal has taken different forms in each District, according to their NAMI organization. Not all GSTs reported active collaboration with GAT/NAMI. 33K does have an ongoing NAMI/GST co-hosted blanket project and will host a "Spring Into Service Week"- planned for April 18-25. At the Multiple District level, collaborative associations have not occurred, though our monthly COG meetings have given opportunities for each of the GAT members to communicate with one another about each committee's objectives. We will be working with our LCIF coordinator more as we get the Diabetes grant application prepared.



6. Provide sufficient resources to our Clubs to help each carry out meaningful service projects that keep our Lions engaged, satisfied, and participating as

active Lions; encouraging the participation of LEOs and non-members in these efforts

Covid has limited the ability to have large scale, in-person projects, and, due to schools being virtual, not all LEOs Clubs are currently meeting/serving.

Anecdotally, DGs have reported non-Lion participation as increased and some report new members as a result of this engagement. Ideas for projects and the means to adapt them have been and continue to be posted on our MD GST Facebook page. Calendars of monthly LCI Focus areas were distributed to members for use within their Districts to help guide project ideas. Ongoing posting on our Facebook page also includes positive PR for those Clubs who have held successful projects. All GST Chairs have Admin duties and can post.

Our Clubs continue to be resilient and are thinking outside the box to keep serving those in need. With over 2500 activities reported, individual projects are too numerous to list but some of the more notable projects include: 33Y was featured in Lion Magazine for their Agawam-and then expanded to include other Clubs-project making over 200 desks for students in need during virtual instruction. 33A completed a CCG funded feeding project and also completed their project to make and distribute 3D printed face shields for 1st Responders. Their Grafton Lions held a (free) drive through car sanitizing event. 33K has an ongoing Diversity blanket project, engaging Clubs and community, has participated in several group food packing events at the Greater Boston Food Bank and is planning a collaborative eyeglasses project with the Lions of Barbados. 33S conducted a project making blankets for kids with cancer which engaged several Clubs/members and held a very successful food packing event also funded by a CCG. 33N has held numerous District-wide projects, including an extremely



successful eyeglasses collection/recycling project, a project to supply adapted wagons to kids with medical needs and several collections for the homeless. Our MD33 GST Chair presented on Service at the fall NELC meeting to good response and that PowerPoint was made available for posting to the MD33 google docs. This has also been shared by request to other MDs in the US. Another presentation was conducted for the Lions of CT and one is being planned for California.

On 4/23 the Chair will be a guest in North Macedonia speaking on service and foundation for their Strategic Planning event. The Chair also serves on the USA-Canada Forum Planning Committee, chairing the Strides and Service Projects events. Proudly, the MD 33 commitment to service and service resources is becoming known.

7. Explore LCIF grants, especially CCGs available to our Districts to help them with their service efforts

The MD GST is hoping to submit for an LCIF Diabetes matching funds grant through the MD -pending completion of the application. The Council has voted approval of this project. Three Districts-33S, 33A and 33N-have completed projects using CCG funds. 33K has a pending project in collaboration with the Lions of Uganda, which will utilize some of their CCG balance. As mentioned above, District 33A completed their 2019-20 LCIF Covid emergency grant funded project-3D printed face shields for 1st Responders. 33Y also completed their emergency grant funded project for the Berkshire Medical facility.

8. Continue to advocate where/when possible to further the causes of our organization, including, but not limited to: White Cane events locally and at State House, VIP Club advocating for disability awareness and accessibility, participation in the UN stakeholders' conversations re: supporting the world we wish to live in, working with the legislature re: eye screenings in schools...

Most of these opportunities have been limited by Covid restrictions, but our Lions continue to be excellent advocates for those in need when/where possible, some

MD 33 GLOBAL

SERVICE TEAM



utilizing social media and virtual events to help in this effort. 33A did take part in the Worcester White Cane Day event and their Walk-Fit group, with LEOs and Lions support, continues to meet/serve as possible. Work with the legislature has not yet happened. Our Chair participated in the UN series of conversations about the World we wish to build and the role service organizations can play in these efforts.

9. Support the IP theme of serving with diversity and kindness

Ongoing communications and especially social media postings about this theme continue to help guide and inform our Lions.

Looking forward

Like all Lions, the MD33 GST Committee has had its challenges this year but we have continued to work diligently toward our goals and thus have seen some good success. For the remainder of the year, we will: continue to address reporting; encourage increased use of our communication resources; hopefully have the MD Diabetes grant and project ready to go and identify matching funds needs/sources; continue to provide resources and support for engagement and service; help support our Lions being effective advocates for those we serve and continue to support our International President's theme.

We will also prepare for an effective transition to the 2021-2022 MD33 GST committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

IPDG Dawn Rice-Norton, Chair MD 33 GST