

Zone Chair 2E – Ian Hambleton

Convention Report March 2021

Zone membership this lionistic year

Overall membership has remained static across all of the zone clubs within 2E, even with the pandemic and the restrictions we are currently under. Many clubs have tried to introduce new members via zoom, with some success. Many clubs have said that prospective new members have been put off joining as they do not like zoom meetings and would prefer to wait and meet Lion members in person to get a better prospective of the clubs they are joining.

Zone clubs are always thinking outside the box on how to recruit new members as well as advertising their clubs activities and taking up new ideas from other clubs in our District to see if they can attract new members.

Service

Whilst the pandemic restrictions have hit clubs hard this year, with many of events they would run being cancelled.

This has not stopped clubs looking after their community's in many ways. Our Zone projects are continuing with the IT project supplying Children with reused PC`s to help with their education, recently they reached 1000 PCs distributed across our region. A lot of hard work has been done to achieve this by a small group of dedicated Lions.

The Lions Community Store has been closed due to the Covid-19, but they have helped many people throughout the year. They also delivered Christmas food parcels to many vulnerable people in our area. Even with them closed, they are still helping with organising and distribution of food parcels to the less fortunate.

Clubs have also helped supply Hospitals, Doctors Surgery, Dentists, Care Homes and many other organisations with face mask relievers as part of PPE These relievers help relieve the tension of the elastic around the ears. These have also been donated to staff and volunteers at the vaccination centres around our zone.

Other clubs are interacting with their community in different ways in bringing together other organisations to share ideas and projects and working with their local councils to help benefit the local communities.

Many of our zone members are helping at the vaccination centres, marshalling and carrying out administration duties, these are helping to reassure the residents that local Lions clubs are still active and supporting them throughout the pandemic.

Fundraising

Clubs have held car boot sales, collected donations via the Christmas Santa sleighs around their towns, toy appeals, food donations & vouchers to help young disadvantaged adults at Christmas. Colouring competitions, local markets, marshalling duties at town events, online auctions and

donation pages have all helped in raising funds for clubs. Some clubs are supporting their local lottery's which helps with funds and others have received money via the gift aid.

Clubs are hoping some of the restrictions will be lifted for the Summer and events can take place so clubs can once again raise funds for good local causes.

Support

Over the past year I have held three monthly zoom meetings with club members in our zone, unfortunately we can not hold our regular dinners evenings at present, but the meetings have attracted over 20 members, lasting for about two hours. Our guest speakers have helped contribute good debate between Lion members, also reports from other Zone Cabinet members have helped keep members informed on current and regional lions issues.

I have held two six monthly meetings with club presidents. I am able to keep update with local club issues and reminded them of Cabinet initiatives including membership and other important lions information. These meetings are an open forum of ideas and concerns facing club presidents, including looking at our zone projects, before reporting back to club members.

I have found it extremely difficult to visit clubs due to the current restrictions, but I was able to attend some Christmas activities and meet up with lion members from our zone, I also attend my own clubs Picnic in the Park in the summer months and few club meetings.

I would like to be more proactive in the next few months, by attending club zoom meetings and interacting with club members.