

Eastern Europe (Management)

Date: Oct.10, 10:45-12:15

Venue: Mercedes Benz

Chair: PID Phil Nathan, MD 105

Agenda

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Membership, clubs and service activities**
- 3. Poland&Ukraine- cooperation&Mutual benefit**
- 4. Presentation of the website “ [www. ceei_ lionsclubs.eu](http://www.ceei_lionsclubs.eu)” by Lions member Frank Gerlinger**
- 5. Reporting and regular payment of dues- there are still a lot of issues**
- 6. Various**

1.Welcome

PID Phil Nathan welcomes all the Lions members and asks every participant to present himself/herself shortly.

2.Membership,clubs and service activities

The different country representatives give an overview concerning membership, clubs and service activities.

Albania

The coordinator for Albania reports that there is a positive development for the Lions clubs in Albania. Membership has grown by 75 members as to 30.06.2015. He predicts that there will be at least 3 more clubs with about 70 members in the year 2015/16.

The coordinator for Albania receives a flag from the chair of the conference which is a present of CEEI for the establishment of a new Lions club.

Armenia

The coordinator of Armenia reports that there are currently (3 clubs and 1 Leo club in 2015.

They try to establish two new clubs.

They hope for more positive results, however they have to deal with difficult financial circumstances.

Another issue is the language. There are two languages (Russian and French) spoken in Armenia which causes communication problems between the different Lions clubs, which either speak French or Russian only, if they want to cooperate. Very often a translation in French or Russian is needed.

But all in all the Lions in Armenia have achieved some good results and one can be quite optimistic in future.

Azerbaijan

According to the country coordinator, there is one Lions Club in Azerbaijan which was founded in 2014. The Lions have to encounter major problems in their country. The government, for instance, does not accept NGOs, especially those from the US like Lions Club International. Nevertheless, the Lions in Azerbaijan try to keep their club running even though they cannot do many activities.

Belarus

The coordinator of Belarus reports that, unfortunately, the political system of the republic makes it very difficult for the Lions to be active. That is why one can only state a status quo for Lions clubs in Belarus. The biggest obstacle for clubs is that they are not allowed by law to have their own bank accounts.

Also, the communication between the different Lions clubs could be better. As most Lions in Belarus only speak Russian, the communication with Oak Brook is also very difficult. Therefore the coordinator of Belarus is raising the question if it was possible to make Russian an official language of Lions.

Belarus had a maximum of 14 Clubs, however due to the problems mentioned above, there are nowadays only 4 clubs left and there is no positive outlook for the future of Lions in Belarus. Overall, the authorities are quite hostile towards NGOs, especially towards everything which is considered as being USA driven.

However, the Lions in Belarus have been successful in building up a center for children who have cancer coming from Chernobyl.

Bosnia- Herzegovina

According to the coordinator for Bosnia-Herzegovina, there is a high chance that there will be three new clubs in the year to come. However, there are four clubs in the country (3 in Sarajevo and 1 in Tuzla) which have difficulties and have not been able to pay their dues so far.

Georgia

The coordinator for Georgia reports that there are 7 Lions Clubs in the country. There are two new clubs with a total of 40 new members. The ambitious goal is to establish two new clubs every year.

The Lions established successful projects, for instance, Lions Quest which is running very well and also helped to attract new members. Another successful project in Georgia, managed by Campus Lions Club Tbilisi, is together with the company LEGO. LEGO gave a big donation and plans an activity together with the Lions in Georgia which will be „the largest NGO charity activity in the history of Georgia“ according to the local Lions. Children who live for example in an orphanage shall benefit from this activity.

Also, the first eye clinic in the country was opened with support of the Lions.

Latvia

The coordinator for Latvia reports that there are 6 Lions Clubs in Latvia (92 members in total), of which five clubs are working well and one is struggling. All in all, there is a status quo for the Lions

in Latvia, but the overall situation is stable.

Moldova

According to a Lions representative of Moldova, the overall situation in the country makes it difficult for Lions Clubs to grow. However, there are some great projects, for example, there is one mobile eye clinic which was built with the help of the Moldovan Lions. Another activity, the “tooth project” is currently planned by Lions in the country.

Montenegro

According to the coordinator of the country, Montenegro currently has no Lions Club. The only club the country had stopped to exist after three years. An initiative group has been recently created which plans to establish a Lions Club which shall be chartered in February 2016. The coordinator also reports that a project together with the WHO in the field of Diabetes is planned.

Russian Federation

According to the representative from the Russian Federation, there are 20 Lions clubs and 131 Lions members in total. The clubs are very active, even though the circumstances for the Lions of Russia are very difficult due to the actual political situation. A successful Lions activity is the project “ Children for children”, where talented young musicians from Russia were supported and performed at eleven charity concerts, not only in Russia but also in Poland and Germany, for example. With this project, the Lions of Russia could raise a lot of money which was donated for children in orphanages and for children with disabilities. Furthermore, equipment for schools could be bought. The Russian Lions intend to involve more Lions, also from other countries, in this project.

Serbia

A representative of Serbia reports that there are currently 5 Lions clubs in the country which are quite active. Due to the successful Lions Youth Exchange Program, the Leo clubs in Serbia are growing. The representative of Serbia sees in the positive development of the Leo clubs in the country a good prospect for future Lions clubs.

Ukraine

According to the coordinator of the Ukraine, the circumstances for the Lions in the country were very hard last year due to actual political situation with the war in the country. However, one could notice a steady membership growth and a new Lions club will be chartered in October 2015. There are also quite many Leo clubs (16 clubs with 350 members). Overall, the coordinator for the Ukraine is quite optimistic about membership growth in his country.

Macedonia

The representative of Macedonia reports that the Lions in Macedonia are quite active and did many projects for children with visual impairment. The Lions donated money for teaching material, for instance special textbooks for visually impaired children for 300 primary schools, supported the training of special educators for children with visual impairment and cooperated with eye hospitals and the authorities in the country to install an eye screening check up project. As a result, an eye screening check up became mandatory for small children in Macedonia. Furthermore, the Lions in

Macedonia supported two eye hospitals (one state eye clinic and a private eye clinic) in the country and intend to cooperate more closely with USAID in the field of eye screening in the near future.

Romania

The representative of Romania reports that the Lions in his country have been doing a “Flohmarkt activity” together with Lions clubs in Austria which has been quite successful so far. The representative of Romania proposes that more countries in Eastern Europe could cooperate with them in this project.

Another Lions member of Romania reports about the cultural projects of his club. His club organized, for instance, historic conferences or conferences dealing with medical and scientific issues for a broader public and gave scholarships for projects in the field of music. According to him, with these projects in the field of culture and science one could attract more potential members for Lions.

Slovenia

A representative of Slovenia reports that there are especially many Leo clubs in his country with 415 members in total. The number of Lions clubs is also growing.

The Lions in his country were very successful in collecting the surpluses of supermarkets to give them to needy people. They also worked together with several food chains. The Lions could collect food for the needy with a value of about 2 million Euros with this project.

Croatia

A representative of Croatia reports that, unfortunately, the Lions membership number in his country is decreasing which could be partly due to a lack of communication among the Lions. The main cabinet of Lions will take the initiative to address this issue. One plan for the near future is to do more projects in the field of education to motivate potential candidates to join the Lions.

Hungary

According to a representative of Hungary, there are 100 new Lions members in his country now . However, the Lions clubs lost 60 members. Overall, there are 55 clubs and 900 members in total, which is a good situation for Lions, even though the general circumstances in Hungary are not that easy. The Lions did several projects in the field of vision screening, for instance, the “mini bus project” where 4000 people could get their eyes examined. 70 per cent of Lions clubs are involved in this vision screening project. Other projects in this field are cultural events for talented blind people or the new program “Blind people in sport”. Other projects such as the guided dog project where food is collected for guided dogs or the project “Grape harvest for blind people” are quite successful.

The Hungarian Lions have worked together in the field of vision screening also with Lions in Poland, Croatia, Slovenia, Germany and France.

3. Poland & Ukraine- cooperation & mutual benefit

A representative of the Polish Lions reports that the Lions membership number in the country is stable. The Lions clubs in Poland are very active and the Polish Lions were able to donate about 20 000 US Dollars to LCI. However, they are also supported by LCI grants. The Polish Lions have good contacts to the Lions of Latvia and the Ukraine. There are Polish Lions clubs which are, for example, sponsor clubs for Latvian clubs and support these in many matters. Polish Lions also made donations for the equipment of hospitals in Latvia.

The Polish Lions intend to cooperate closely with the Ukrainian Lions to establish new clubs and to carry out new projects. There is also a strong cooperation with German Lions clubs. Polish Lions clubs have jumelages with two German districts, one in northern and one in eastern Germany. The Polish and German Lions organized, for instance, a bike ride together, which was very successful. The German Lions also support several projects in Poland and donated money for a center for disabled people, for example.

4. Presentation of the website “ceei_lionsclubs.eu” by Lions member Frank Gerlinger

German Lions member Frank Gerlinger gives a short overview about the new website for CEEI, where one can get all relevant information on CEEI, for example on ongoing or planned projects and activities in the CEE countries, on CEEI conferences or the CEEI team. The link to the website is “ [www. CEEI_lionsclubs.eu](http://www.CEEI_lionsclubs.eu)”

5. Reporting and regular payment of dues- there are still a lot of issues

PDG Heiko Dallmann briefly reports that the regular payment of dues in general got better, but there are still a lot of issues which are due to difficult political and cultural circumstances in the respective countries. He mentions that in some CEE countries Lions clubs are not even allowed by law to have their own bank accounts.

According to PDG Heiko Dallmann CEEI has to address these financial issues and has to find a solution for them in the near future.

6.Various

The Ukrainian coordinator is awarded a „Certificate of Achievement“ by PID Phil Nathan and PDG Heiko Dallmann.

PDG Heiko Dallmann informs that a CEE conference is planned in the near future and the information about the conference will be sent out soon.

PID Phil Nathan concludes that even though there are still many issues which have to be addressed, one can notice a positive development for the Lions organization in the CEE countries.

Augsburg, 10.10.15

Secretary: Barbara Klett