



The Team Approach for Club Visits



As district governor (DG), time is your most precious commodity. Planning and prioritizing your visits and activities will help you focus on your goals and the actions needed to achieve them.

One way to accommodate the responsibilities of being a district governor is to share club visits with other members of your DG team. Not only does this give you more time to focus on your goals, it also provides tangible benefits for the vice district governors and the clubs that they serve.

Survey results

Districts that shared club visits were surveyed to see if sharing visits had a positive or negative effect on district management and to also discover how the concept could be implemented successfully. The survey found the following:

- In most cases, the district governor delegated club visits to either the first or second vice district governor.
- Club visits were delegated only after considerable thought and planning. The DG team together determined which team member would be assigned to each club.
- While experience and training was an initial concern, they found that the experience that the vice district governors received as a zone or region chairperson adequately prepared them for club visits.
- It was a positive experience for the district governors since it gave them time to focus on activities that would truly help strengthen the district.
- It was a positive experience for the vice district governors because it gave them a chance to build relationships with clubs, identify possible future cabinet members, better understand areas that need special attention and gave them an opportunity to become a working member of the team.
- It was a positive experience for the clubs because they were able to build relationships with future district leaders and discuss district plans that were more long-term in nature.
- Teamwork was enhanced. Sharing club visits gave the team a platform to discuss the strengths and the weaknesses of each club and allowed them to discuss possible strategies to help struggling clubs. This exchange of ideas was not possible prior to sharing club visits.
- Some areas were concerned that the clubs would feel slighted if the district governor did not visit, but this was overcome after the clubs were informed of the new team approach.
- Sharing club visits brought the DG team together to allow them to coordinate their message, not only for the year, but through subsequent years as well.



Implementing the team approach to club visits

It takes a team

Successful club visit sharing starts with a thorough plan that is truly a team effort. District governors should host a meeting with their vice district governors to discuss the challenges and opportunities within the district and the needs of each club. The discussion and subsequent plan should focus on goals and how district resources can be applied strategically.

Next, determine which team member should conduct the club visit. While this should be based on the needs of the clubs (matching the strengths of the team members with the needs of the clubs,) often scheduling conflicts and location are also considered. Also, the visits may or may not be shared equally. In some areas, each team member takes a third of the district, but in other cases, the district governor may take more. Choose a plan that works best for your team.

Determine the message

To help the vice district governors plan their visits, as a team, determine exactly what the message should be. Many focus on the president's theme, new leadership development resources that are offered online or through the district, or perhaps sharing successful service activity ideas. While each member of the team might have their own way to present the information, the message should be coordinated among team members.

Follow-up and results

The district governor and the vice district governors should communicate on a regular basis to discuss the status and needs of the clubs and how the district can assist the clubs in new ways. These meetings will help the vice district governors develop their plans and goals for subsequent years and help bring continuity and direction that can be carried on year to year.

Reimbursement

The current expense reimbursement policy allows for the sharing of club visits. Vice district governors should complete the District Governor Travel and Expense Claim (C-30) and then forward the documents to the district governor. The district governor would approve the claim and then forward the claim to Lions International for payment. The reimbursement is then sent to the district governor for distribution.

Consider testing the concept in your area.



TEAMWORK HELPS EVERYONE GROW!

For more information contact the English Language Department via email at clubofficers@lionsclubs.org.

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