

# Global Membership Approach

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District 2-S2 Status Update

December 2024

**December saw the largest membership drop of the year when we lost 26 members. The previous largest drop was in August when we lost 24. What makes December's loss so bad was that we only added 12 new members against the loss, whereas in August we added 38. So, what can we do about it? Please read on.**

**Retention:** I think many clubs underestimate how important retention of current members is. We have clubs in the district that continue to drop members due to non-attendance. As has been stated in previous reports, this practice needs to be at least scrutinized and in most cases, dropped.

There are several reasons why members may not be active and attending meetings. Their job, educational opportunities, temporary relocation could be just a few examples. As long as the member continues to pay their dues, every effort to keep them on the rolls should be exercised. The fact that they continue to pay their dues should be enough of a clue that they have every intention of continuing to be a Lion that we should at minimum, give them the benefit of the doubt.

Another aspect of retention is in the event you do have a member who has expressed a desire to drop, communicate with that member, personally, and find out why they no longer want to be a Lion. Maybe they are moving away, in which case you can direct them to a club in that area. Maybe it's a financial reason in which the club may offer temporary assistance. The main thing is to get in front of potential drops and try to keep them from fruition.

**SERVICE:** Select members continue to work on The Sunshine Kids Facility on days when the weather and individual schedules are copasetic. Inclement weather has slowed down the efforts but not derailed anything. Most of the deck has been painted as well as all of the benches. We expect to finish this phase of our continuing project during the month of January. Keep an eye out for notices about when we will continue our efforts. Remember, this is one of our District 2-S2 Service Projects.

**MID-WINTER CONFERENCE:** January, of course, is the midpoint of the year and also the month we hold our District 2-S2 Mid-Winter Conference. As of this writing, we have only about 40 registrants for the convention, about a third of what we would like to see attend.

The agenda is being finalized. At this point we have identified our featured noon speaker. She is Bobbie Baker from Rosharon, Texas. Bobbie's daughter, Nova, was a Sunshine Kid after being diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2019. Bobbie will tell the incredible story of her personal experiences and how, after the passing of her daughter this past summer, she has dedicated her life with working with parents whose child has been diagnosed with Childhood Cancer.



Also speaking earlier in the day is Jennifer Wisler, National Director of Sunshine Kids. Many of our clubs know little about Childhood Cancer and Jennifer can tell you more than you want to know. Hear her and find out how you can help those who are in need after being diagnosed with this dreaded disease.

Other speakers are also being put together and will be in place to give you information of a variety of topics.

**BOB DOWDEN DINNER:** Another treat for those attending the Mid-Winter Conference is the Bob Dowden Dinner. This dinner and the accompanying silent auction is the single largest contribution to the Texas Lions' Camp for our district. The theme this year is "Camping Out" and attendees are being asked to attend this event wearing what you'd wear to camp out, so you should be extremely comfortable. Dress for the mid-winter is also casual, so there is no need to change clothes going from one event to the other.

It's a bargain. Cost for the Bob Dowden Dinner is \$90 and for the conference, \$50. Attendees can attend both for only \$125 so gather members of your club and make the pilgrimage to the Houston North Hilton on January 25. Reservations really need to be made now, but for the sake of ordering food and accommodations, no later than January 20.

**DISTRICT FUND RAISER:** At each meeting or function attended by our district governor or our vice district governors, they have pins to sell. These pins represent Childhood Cancer and Diabetes and can be purchased for only \$10 each. The net proceeds of the pins go to the global pillars of service they represent.

So if you are attending a P&SC Meeting, a club or zone meeting where either of the three are present, make sure you have \$10 or \$20 or more so you can participate. Pins will also be available at the mid-winter conference.

**DANDELION AWARD:** The deadline has passed and only two people won the coveted Dandelion Award. We're not spilling the beans yet, but we have a winner from the west side of the district and one from the east side of the district. Come to the mid-winter conference and be among the first to find out who won.

**DISCREPANCY:** There is a discrepancy in the reporting from LCI and District 2-S2. They show where an additional 15 were dropped and that does not coincide with our numbers, so next month will see everything get cleared up. Knowing that, get out there and bring in some new members in January to offset what we know is coming. Do your part!

For more information, the district website has all the information as well as it's the place to register. Get 'er done.