

Hello Lions,

I'm Lion Barry Allen of the Manchester Lions and am the new editor of the District Newsletter, taking over from VDG Dan Shepherd last month to allow him to focus on his District duties.

In assuming my duties, VDG Dan provided me with his data base of literally hundreds of email addresses which I cross referenced with back copies and current copies of the district roster. I determined that the data base in it's current form was unmanageable and growing exponentially and yet some Lions Clubs were being neglected. To maintain a current and manageable data base and to reach each and every Lions Club, I am sending the newsletter to all club officers in each ZONE in the District. It is the responsibility of each club to distribute the newsletter to their members, and/or have a copy available at their meeting if members do not have email.

VDG Dan has done a wonderful job with the newsletter these past few years and the newsletter has become a work of art. Graphics have a price, so we have had to limit the content to sixteen pages because that seems to be the limit to the file size the web servers will allow us to send. The colorful pictures add depth and content to the newsletter, but add megabytes to the file size. I am working to reduce pixel size to allow us to add more pictures, but take up less space.

When I reviewed the hundreds of email addresses, I realized those of us with high speed Internet are spoiled and forget there are many Lions who are still in the dark ages of content downloading. Those on DIAL-UP can take a long time just to download one picture, and the entire newsletter would probably time out before you could get it downloaded. To expand the newsletter coverage, I've formulated a "Newsletter LITE" which has the written content minus all the graphics, pictures

and flyers. Club officers can decide which version is best suited for their members for redistribution.

The newsletter is only as good as the content being submitted. If you send it to me, I WILL print it. If you send it in "TIMES NEW ROMAN" font at 12 pitch, not only will I print it, but I'll have a big smile on my face because you have saved me a lot of work. The newsletter is not just a venue to tell what you have done, it's a chance to tell the District what events you have coming up, a chance to advertise your fundraiser or community service. I review your Monthly Activities Reports to find upcoming events or newsworthy information. It would be even better if you drop me a note giving me the details and even a picture or two.

You can reach me at BarryRAllen@aol.com or newsletter11b1@aol.com or at 734-428-7034. I welcome your comments and suggestions for improving the newsletter