

**FOURTH COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING
LIONS OF MICHIGAN, MULTIPLE DISTRICT 11
RAMADA INN, LANSING, MICHIGAN
FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2010**

Attendance – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. It was attended by the following District Governors: John Daoud, 11 A1; Ron Holler, 11 A2; Terry Walters, 11 B1; Al Vredberg, 11 B2; Robert Schalow, 11 C1; Kevin Storberg, 11 C2; Keith Cregar, 11 D1; Robert Ryan, 11 D2; Beverly Bodem, 11 E2; and Don Wojakowski, SD 10. First VDGs in attendance were: Jim Bone, 11 A2; Barbara Treichel, 11 B1; Don Brown, 11 B2; Fran Osborne, 11 C1; Marion Ramer, 11 C2; Dr. Gary McCray, 11 D1; Laura Johnson, 11 E1; and Gary Klop, SD 10. Second VDGs present were: Robert Bobee, 11 A2; Ken Frary, 11 C1; Ray Robins, 11 C2; Don Hartwick, 11 D1; Margaret Oldenburg, 11 D2; and John Monahan, 11 E1. Others present: PID Bill Hansen; PID Dennis Cobler; PID Bill Hanel; Council Chair Bob Jenkins; Council Chair-Elect Frank Cunningham; MD 11 Leadership Development Chair Esther LaMothe; State Treasurer Paul Hemeryck; and Executive Director Mary Brown.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes –

MOTION – Ryan, seconded, to approve the proposed agenda, with the addition of discussion of Project KidSight. Motion carried.

MOTION – Cregar, seconded, to approve the minutes of the December Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Governor Wojakowski noted that SD 10 did not vote on the motion regarding the Liaison Committee at the December Council Meeting.

Update on Vice Council Chair Wayne Kreitner – Kevin Storberg reported that DG Wayne is now home after six weeks in the hospital. He sends his thanks to everyone for their support and prayers.

MOTION – Daoud, Ryan, to appoint Kevin Storberg as Acting Vice Council Chairman. Motion carried (opposed by Holler).

Leadership Development Report – Esther LaMothe, PDG, Chairperson

District Leadership Chairs are preparing for club and district officer training. Several have also conducted Certified Guiding Lion training. Spring is a busy time for them as clubs prepare for the new Lions year.

Training for Vice District Governors has been completed. First VDGs will conduct a goal-setting session in May. VDG training sessions will continue to be held on Fridays of Council Meetings next year.

President Wirfs is using webinars to communicate with incoming Governors. He has had up to 100 people logged on at a time. The only cost for participants is the phone call.

Club Excellence training was held on February 27. Two districts are participating in the pilot program, 11 A2 and C1. The process is similar to the Train the Trainers program. It can also be used by MERL chairs to train their committees.

PDG LaMothe reminded the Governors that they must hold club officer training during their year. There is a form in the DG Manual that must be completed and sent to LCI, confirming this has been done. DGs are also required to report the results of their elections to LCI and the State Office following their district conventions.

Financial Report – Paul Hemeryck, State Treasurer

All accounts are operating within the budgets that were approved by the Council. Interest earnings are helping to offset deficits; but as losses become larger, it will be necessary eventually to make additional cuts and/or raise dues. Year-to-date revenues are below projections due to lower interest rates and declining dues income.

Several districts currently show gains in membership; however, they should be prepared for the “June slaughter” that typically occurs at the end of the fiscal year. DGs need to build a cushion by continuing to organize new clubs and recruit new members.

The magazine shows a deficit at the end of January because subscription fees are allocated as issues are published (4 issues through January), while labor costs are allocated monthly (7 months through January). Treasurer Hemeryck estimates that the magazine will break even by the end of the year.

The Grace Lange Memorial Fund is earmarked for the visually impaired. It is used to fund the white cane scholarship (\$2,000 annually). DG Ryan suggested forming a committee to study additional uses for the money.

MOTION – Storberg, seconded, to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Motion carried.

Governors’ Goals – Two goals were set by the Governors this year--orientation and retention. Several districts are planning to bring in LCI’s extension team to work on new clubs. All districts are trying to increase membership.

Liaison Committee Report – PID Bill Hansen, Chairman

MD 11 and SD 10 are separate entities, and both can run a candidate for ID. They can even run at the same time, although it is doubtful they would be elected to serve concurrently. In the past, SD 10 and MD 11 have supported each other’s candidates; however, cross-endorsement is not a requirement, only a courtesy.

Three candidates from Michigan have announced their intention to seek endorsement for International Director—Gary Anderson and Linda Bosma from MD 11 and Duane Goltz from SD 10. As they visit district conventions this spring, candidates should be treated equally. Governors should discourage any negative campaign tactics.

DG Wojakowski asked why the Liaison Committee decided to divide the budgeted campaign funds (\$16,000), giving 20% to the SD 10 candidate and 80% to the MD 11 candidate. Why doesn’t each candidate get 50%? Why isn’t the amount doubled from \$16,000 to \$32,000 if there are two candidates? PID Hansen explained that the percentages were based on dues paid in to the Restricted Fund by the Lions of SD 10 and MD 11. Lions from both districts pay 50-cents per member per year. Based on the number of members in MD 11 and SD 10, 88% of the money comes from MD 11 and 12% comes from SD 10. However, the Liaison Committee voted to allocate 20% to SD 10 and 80% to MD 11; and this action was approved by the Council of Governors. Treasurer Hemeryck noted that doubling the campaign budget to \$32,000 would deplete the Restricted Fund.

The Liaison Committee has recommended not running a candidate for international office when there is no possibility of success (i.e., during years when Michigan has a seated ID going off the board).

MOTION – Vredberg, to table further discussion of this subject. Motion carried.

Joint Activities of SD 10 and MD 11

There has been talk in SD 10 about terminating their relationship with MD 11. There are no formal, written agreements between them. Certain items are addressed in MD 11 policies, but not in SD 10 policies. SD 10

has its own Secretary and Treasurer, and some SD 10 Lions are questioning the value of paying dues for “joint” activities with MD 11. The SD 10 Governor is a guest at MD 11 Council Meetings, except for four areas where he has a vote—Liaison, All State Band, International Convention and State Office. It is possible for SD 10 to take control of their own Liaison and International Convention activities and funds. A contractual agreement could also be developed to provide administrative support from the State Office. Michigan is the only state in LCI that has a multiple district and a single district within the boundaries of one constitutional area. DG Wojakowski stated that SD 10 currently is not planning to take action to break away.

Lion Pride Magazine Report – Michelle Fields, Editor

The magazine continues to see annual postage increases. Some of the additional expense has been offset by changing the page size. LCI is now able to furnish a mailing list that *identifies* family members, but they have to be removed manually. These changes save about \$200 per issue in reduced printing and postage costs.

Publication of the magazine soon will be back on track. The February issue has been mailed, and the March issue will go out as soon as the final wording of the constitutional amendments has been received (approximately March 15th). While the office was being remodeled, computers had to be accessed by remote control, making it very difficult and time-consuming to lay out pages and color balance photos for the magazine.

Second VDG Ray Robins offered to take photos of the 1st and 2nd VDGs for future issues of the magazine.

**FOURTH COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING
LIONS OF MICHIGAN, MULTIPLE DISTRICT 11
RAMADA INN, LANSING, MI
SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010**

Attendance – The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. It was attended by the following District Governors: John Daoud, 11 A1; Ron Holler, 11 A2; Terry Walters, 11 B1; Al Vredberg, 11 B2; Robert Schalow, 11 C1; Kevin Storberg, 11 C2; Keith Cregar, 11 D1; Robert Ryan, 11 D2; Beverly Bodem, 11 E2; and Don Wojakowski, SD 10. First Vice District Governors in attendance were: Jim Bone, 11 A2; Barbara Treichel, 11 B1; Don Brown, 11 B2; Fran Osborne, 11 C1; Marion Ramer, 11 C2; Dr. Gary McCray, 11 D1; Laura Johnson, 11 E1; and Gary Klop, SD 10. Second Vice District Governors present were: Robert Bobee, 11 A2; Dan Shepherd, 11 B1; Ken Frary, 11 C1; Ray Robins, 11 C2; Don Hartwick, 11 D1; Margaret Oldenburg, 11 D2; and John Monahan, 11 E1. Others present: PID Bill Hansen; PID Dennis Cobler; PID Bill Hanel; Council Chair Bob Jenkins; Council Chair-Elect Frank Cunningham; State Treasurer Paul Hemeryck; and Executive Director Mary Brown.

Leadership Institute Report – Bill Hansen, PID, Chairman

The 2009 Leadership Institute was successful, and reviews were outstanding. There were 74 participants. The original plan was to run it in conjunction with a Senior Lions Leadership Institute, but the senior institute was cancelled when response was insufficient. All districts were asked to contribute \$300 toward the Leadership Institute; to date four districts have not contributed.

The institute staff included three new instructors this year—Jim Pettinato, Kim Thiede and Jenny Ware. Nancy Lampman and Sara Doubledee provided administrative support. The committee is continually re-thinking classes and time frames to make the institute more effective. The committee plans to submit a grant request to LCI for \$10,000 for the 2010 Leadership Institute, based on 100 participants. There have been over 1,000 graduates over the past 10 years.

MOTION – Ryan, seconded, to move forward with plans for the 2010 Leadership Institute and to apply for a \$10,000 grant from LCI. Motion carried.

Presidential and Leadership Medals -

International President Wirfs has approved two of the four nominations submitted for Presidential Medals and three of the seven nominations submitted for Leadership Medals. All of the applications were well written this year, but some did not meet the specific criteria outlined by IP Wirfs (i.e., compliance with his program).

Project KidSight -

Susan Eisenhardt reported at the December Council Meeting that Project KidSight is facing a financial crunch. A letter was mailed to clubs recently requesting donations. Clubs pay for the screenings they conduct, but there is not enough money coming in to cover administrative expenses.

MOTION – Walters, seconded, to request a financial report from Project KidSight, as well as information identifying what the administrative costs are for the program, and a job description for their Executive Director. This information should be emailed to the State Office for distribution to the Council of Governors. Motion carried.

Public Relations Committee Report – Evelyn Cooper, Chairperson

The committee is asking for \$10,000 to conduct a public relations program involving radio PSAs in northern Michigan. Gannon Broadcasting is willing to match the amount dollar for dollar. Treasurer Hemeryck noted that the Public Relations Account has \$358.88 in it. Evelyn stated that those funds are normally used for the scrapbook contest.

Matching-fund grants for public relations are available from LCI. Each year, they have approximately \$275,000 available on a first-come, first serve basis; however, those funds are normally exhausted by March.

The Governors noted that no-cost public relations measures can be effective at the local level—i.e., stories in newspapers, booths at community bazaars and fairs, wearing of Lions shirts, providing copies of Lions magazines to libraries and doctors offices, etc. They can design their own brochure. LCI also has numerous PR materials available on their website. Clubs need to promote themselves.

MOTION – Daoud, to give \$10,000 to the Public Relations Committee. No second; motion died.

Strategic Planning Report (written) – John Johnson, PDG, Chairman

The Strategic Planning Committee met via teleconference to discuss reducing the number of MD 11 committees and ways to make them more effective. MD committees fall into three categories—administrative, state projects, and services. There are issues involved when combining or eliminating any committee. One suggestion that came out of the meeting was to consider combining Public Relations and Publication Advisory. It was noted, however, that the Lions of Michigan and the Lion Pride Magazine are separate corporations. If they are combined, would Public Relations become a committee of the magazine? Would funding for public relations activities come from subscription fees?

The Strategic Planning Committee also discussed whether every district needs representation on every MD committee. They felt it was more effective to leave slots open, rather than appoint people who have no interest.

MOTION – Vredberg, seconded, to receive the Strategic Planning Committee report as provided, with no action taken. Motion carried.

Dispute Resolution Report (written) – PDG John Johnson

An article was drafted by PID Bud Wahl, head conciliator in the dispute process, for publication in the February issue of the Lion Pride. The complaint was denied by unanimous decision. The conciliation team also presented a list of recommendations to both parties in the dispute. The Governors agreed to put the matter behind them and move forward. They expressed thanks to the conciliators for their time and efforts.

MOTION – Holler, seconded, that the monetary award be used to cover conciliation costs. Motion carried.

International Convention Report – Dennis Lautzenheiser, PDG, Chairman

MD 11 has 51 people registered for the convention in Sydney, and SD 10 has two. Arrangements have been made for a hospitality room in Michigan’s headquarters hotel. It may not be feasible to have snacks in the room because food must be purchased from the hotel, and prices are very high.

Michigan Night will take place at Gledswood Homestead on Wednesday evening. The group will be treated to a dinner of Australian fare, wine tasting and indigenous cultural presentations. There are currently 35 paid participants. Michigan Lions are also invited to participate in a “Midwest Lions Breakfast” put on by the Indiana Lions on Wednesday morning. The estimated price is \$30 per person.

The pre- and post-convention tours arranged through New Horizons Tour and Travel have reached the minimum number of participants. The pre-tour goes to Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef, and the post-tour visits the north island of New Zealand.

Parade attire is khaki pants, blue Michigan Lions shirt and white shoes. Marchers will receive a parade patch, a hat and a bandana, all with Australian motif.

Incoming DGs were encouraged to attend the Caucus in Sydney. It gives them an excellent opportunity to meet their convention speakers for next year.

Michigan Forum Report – Jim Pettinato, Forum Chair

The preliminary financial report on the Michigan Forum shows a profit. There were 221 people registered. Two presenters were unable to attend, but the committee was able to obtain last-minute replacements. All of the breakout sessions were well received. Overall evaluations of the Michigan Forum showed a score of 4.63 out of 5. International guests PID Richard and Fay Sawyer from Arizona mixed with the attendees and added a lot to the event.

Governors suggested having sessions on public relations and fundraising at next year’s Forum or at the Leadership institute.

Grace Lange Fund -

Three DGs volunteered to serve on a committee to study the Grace Lange Memorial Fund: Bob Ryan, Kevin Storberg, and Terry Walters. It was recommended that the committee also include a PDG (Frank Cunningham), a VDG (Laura Johnson), and the State Treasurer (Paul Hemeryck).

International Convention in Sydney -

MOTION – Vredberg, seconded, to accept Mary Brown’s offer not to go to the International Convention in Sydney. Motion carried.

Orientation Report – Clem Ruiz, PDG, Chairman

The committee is working on a brief, generic orientation program that can be used in every district. They would like each club to appoint an Orientation Chairperson. This individual would be responsible for

providing information about the Lions organization, starting with the club level and moving up to district, state and international. Some districts have held orientation sessions at zone and region meetings.

Membership Report – Al Kelpinski, PDG, Chairman

The February membership totals are in. At -44, it is possible for MD 11 to have an increase in membership this year. Membership Committee members are active in all districts, and PDG Al predicts positive results. Fewer new members have been added this year, but there have been fewer drops in 2009-10. The Retention Committee was commended for the results they have achieved—their efforts are making the Membership Committee’s job much easier.

Governor Beverly Bodem recently received the International President’s Gingko award for increasing the average club size in District 11 E2.

Extension Report – Harry Johnson, PDG, Chairman

District 11 A1 is working on a branch club in Trenton, and 11 A2 is attempting to organize a new club in Berkley. Several districts are utilizing LCI’s Extension Team. These workshops are very productive and beneficial in organizing new Lions Clubs. Training of Certified Guiding Lions is another important part of the process.

Lions Quest Report – Harry Johnson, PDG, Chairman

Five Lions-Quest training sessions have been held in the Detroit area. District 11 A1 partners with several organizations that help with funding for the Quest program. Matching funds are also available from LCIF.

Getting schools on board with the program is a hard sell in these difficult economic times because they don’t have money for it. Assistance from Lions Clubs helps to make it possible.

Programs on Lions-Quest can be presented at no charge at cabinet meetings or district conventions. Ken Frazier is an excellent presenter.

Retention Report (written and conference call) – Ron Papa, PDG, Chairman

The Council’s retention goal this year is a 13% reduction in drops. Last year there were 1,677 drops, so the goal is 1,459 (or fewer) drops. Through the end of February, there have been 1,000 drops. All districts have a good shot at meeting their goal by the end of June. Committee members have been active in all districts.

Sight Conservation/Diabetes Awareness Report – Bob Bobee, VDG, Chairman

Numerous organizations have representatives available to present programs on diabetes at club meetings. There are also groups that provide diabetic supplies to those who can’t afford them.

Written Reports -

MOTION – Vredberg, seconded, to receive the written report from the Leader Dog Committee. Motion carried.

MOTION – Storberg, seconded, to receive the written report from the All State Band Committee. Motion carried.

MOTION – Walters, seconded, to receive the written report from the Youth Exchange Committee. Motion carried.

White Cane Report - The State Office was contacted by a manufacturer that can produce miniature metal white canes (which were discontinued last year). At the price quoted, a bag of 500 would sell for \$65. This is

the same price currently charged for plastic canes and appliqués—the other items in the shape of a cane. In the past, metal canes represented a less expensive alternative to the plastic canes. Four years ago metal canes sold for \$40 for a bag of 500, and then they went up to \$45, then \$50, and finally \$60 per 500 when they were discontinued.

The White Cane Committee has decided not to offer metal canes this year; however, they will discuss them when they meet again next year. In the meantime, committee members have been asked to let clubs know about the cost and availability of the metal canes and attempt to find out whether they would be willing to buy them at this price.

Lions of Michigan Foundation Report – *Mitch Smith, President*

Packets were distributed showing grants by district to date. Most were for assistance with hearing aids. The Foundation has submitted an idea to Pepsi in conjunction with their Refresh Project. Pepsi will select up to 1,000 ideas per month, with grant money distributed to organizations whose ideas receive the most online votes. If the Foundation's idea is selected, they will be seeking votes from Lions Club members.

The drawing for the Sight and hearing Sweepstakes will be held at the MD 11 Convention in May. Nominations are being accepted for induction into the Foundation's Hall of Fame.

Welcome Homes Residential Services – *Eric Schuman, Welcome Homes Board Member*

PDG Schuman read a statement to the Council in response to emails that circulated with incorrect statements about Welcome Homes being acquired by Porter Hills Retirement Communities. He clarified that Porter Hills and the *Gerontology Network* have entered an affiliation. There was no buyout and no money was exchanged—and Welcome Homes was not part of this agreement. Welcome Homes *is affiliated* with both the Gerontology Network and Porter Hills, but maintains its own nonprofit status with IRS and has its own Board of Directors, bank accounts, and funding sources.

In the past few years, Welcome Homes has grown from serving 27 individuals to serving 60. Operating costs have been reduced from \$26,000 per person served to less than \$300 per person. Welcome Homes has gone from one home in Grand Rapids to eight facilities across west Michigan. They are now reaching out to individuals in their own homes as well.

MOTION – Cregar, seconded, to put an article in the Lion Pride Magazine indicating that the Council of Governors supports Welcome Homes. Motion defeated.

MOTION – Storberg, seconded, to have the State Treasurer submit a statement every year for publication in the magazine indicating that each of the MD 11 projects is in compliance with the constitutional requirements to remain MD 11 projects. Motion carried.

MD 11 Convention Report – *Bob Sturgis, PDG, Convention Chair*

Holding the convention on Mackinac Island has created numerous challenges for the committee. Originally, it meant dealing with transportation by ferry boat, horse taxi and bicycle. Adding a contest for ID created a bigger demand for rooms—but hotels on the island close for the winter, complicating the negotiation process. The initial block of 125 rooms at Mission Point Resort is full, along with 30 rooms at the Island House. On March 5, Mission Point was able to release 20 additional rooms for the convention. Several other hotels on Mackinac Island and in Mackinaw City are offering rooms to Lions at special convention rates.

Menus can't be finalized until the chef returns to the island for the 2010 season. Second VP Wing Kun Tam was requested as the convention speaker but confirmation hasn't been received.

At their last meeting, the committee reviewed bids for the 2012 MD 11 Convention and narrowed the list of potential sites to seven. PDG Sturgis contacted all of them to request additional concessions. The list was narrowed to four: Comfort Inn Mt. Pleasant, McCamly Plaza Battle Creek, Crowne Plaza Grand Rapids and Doubletree Bay City. All of these hotels are offering rooms rates between \$85 and \$89, comps, and free meeting space.

MOTION – Storberg, seconded, to approve the bid from the Crowne Plaza in Grand Rapids for the 2012 MD 11 Convention. Motion carried.

MOTION – Storberg, seconded, to have two voting stations at the 2010 convention, one in Mackinaw City and one on Mackinac Island. Motion carried (5 ayes, 4 nays). *

MOTION – Walters, seconded to set the time for voting between 2:00 and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 22. Motion defeated (1 aye, 8 nays).

MOTION – Schalow, seconded to have voting take place simultaneously in Mackinaw City and on Mackinac Island between 1:00 and 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 22. Anyone in line at 1:30 p.m. will be permitted to vote. Motion carried. *

** Note: In the days following the Council Meeting, several DGs expressed concerns to CC Jenkins about potential problems with dual voting sites that might compromise the election results. Additional discussions took place with the Elections Chair and the Constitution and By-Laws Chair, and they expressed reservations about the logistics and additional costs involved. As a result, a motion was made via phone by DG Al Vredberg to have only **one** MD 11 Convention voting site—at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island. The motion was seconded via phone call by DG Ron Holler. All Governors transmitted their votes to CC Jenkins, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Evaluation of State Treasurer and Executive Director

The Council reviewed and agreed to use a new evaluation form; however, they will exclude the section that correlates the Executive Director’s performance to the success of the District Governors meeting their goals.

MOTION – Schalow, seconded, to fill out the evaluation forms and return them to CC Bob Jenkins by March 15th. Motion carried.

A few years ago, the Council of Governors changed the title “Executive Secretary” to “Executive Director.” This change in terminology was placed in the Policy Manual, but was not incorporated into the Constitution and By-Laws.

MOTION – Vredberg, seconded, to bring the terminology in the Policy Manual into compliance with the Constitution and By-Laws regarding the title Executive Secretary.

MOTION – Storberg, seconded, to amend the motion to contact the Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee about getting an amendment on the ballot in May that would bring both documents into agreement. Motion carried.

VOTE ON THE MOTION AS AMENDED: Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.