

**FOURTH COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING
LIONS OF MICHIGAN, MULTIPLE DISTRICT 11
RAMADA INN, LANSING, MICHIGAN
FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2011**

Attendance – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. It was attended by the following District Governors: Linda Tate, 11 A1; 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; Bill Stenback, 11 E2; and Gary Klop, SD 10. First VDGs in attendance were: Harold Stephens, 11 A1; Dan Shepherd, 11 B1; Jerry Pearson, 11 B2; Ken Frary, 11 C1; Ray Robins, 11 C2; Don Hartwick, 11 D1; Margaret Oldenburg, 11 D2; and John Monahan, 11 E1. Second VDGs present were: Steve Horvath, 11 A1; Jim Pettinato, 11 A2; Dick Dettling, 11 B1; Karen Ates, 11 D1; Dave Hacker, 11 D2; and William Simpson, 11 E1. Others present: Council Chair Frank Cunningham; Council Chair-Elect Roger LaMothe; State Treasurer Paul Hemeryck; and Executive Director Mary Brown.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes –

MOTION – McCray, seconded, to approve the proposed agenda. Motion carried.

MOTION – Osborne, seconded, to approve the minutes of the December 2010 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Presidential and Leadership Medals -

International President Scruggs has approved all of the nominees recommended by the Council for Presidential and Leadership Medals. The medals were distributed to the Governors for presentation at their district conventions.

Communications – Mary Brown, Executive Director

The Michigan Lions Foundation is planning a Caribbean cruise fundraiser on February 5-12, 2013. The cost per person ranges from \$1175 to \$1485 per person (excluding round trip airfare to Florida). \$200 per stateroom will be donated to the Foundation.

The District Governors received blazer patches for next year's 1st and 2nd Vice Governors and District Governors, to be presented upon election at their district conventions this spring. Comp pins were given to Governors and Governors-Elect who are registered to attend the International Convention in Seattle.

Leadership Development Report – Tom Doyle, PDG, Chairperson

District Leadership Chairs are preparing for club and district officer training. Several have conducted club assessment surveys this year. Spring is a busy time as clubs prepare for the new Lions year.

A training session for 1st and 2nd Vice Governors was conducted earlier in the day. Governors-Elect will participate in a goal-setting session on May 14 at the Lions State Office.

Governors are reminded 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.

The new GLT/GMT program will be discussed in more detail tomorrow when the Governors are asked to appoint their Multiple District Coordinators. PID Dennis Cobler is the Area GMT Coordinator and PID Dave Fiant from Indiana is the Area GLT Coordinator.

International Convention Report – Dennis Lautzenheiser, PDG, Chairman

MD 11 has 64 people registered for the convention in Seattle, and SD 10 has three. Totals include the Governors-Elect and spouses. Twenty-two people are staying in Michigan's headquarters hotel, the Renaissance Seattle. Low attendance was attributed to above-average hotel rates and the high cost of transportation to Seattle. In addition, the USA/Canada Forum will be held in Anchorage, Alaska in September, creating competition for Lions' attendance.

Chairman Lautzenheiser displayed samples of the giveaway items for the parade. The umbrellas cost \$3.49 each, and 125 is the minimum order quantity. They are navy blue with white lettering. Baseball caps cost \$5.10, and eight dozen will be ordered. They are white with navy blue lettering. Extras hats and umbrellas will be used for the 2012 convention in Korea, or they will be sold to Lions who want to purchase them.

Michigan Night is at Tillicum Village on Wednesday evening. The cost is \$70 per person. The event includes a narrated boat ride to Blake Island, a meal of grilled salmon or venison stew, and a show highlighting Northwestern Native American culture. Contact Chairman Lautzenheiser by May 1 for tickets.

The parade takes place on Tuesday morning. Attire for the Michigan delegation is the new red/white/blue parade shirt, navy pants and white shoes.

2012 State Pin

MOTION – McCray, seconded, to order 3,000 of the 2012 state pins from C.P. Enterprises. Motion carried.

Grace Lange Fund – Governor Laura Johnson

It was recommended that three scholarships for the visually impaired (instead of one) should be funded each year from the Grace Lange Memorial Fund. It was pointed out that the account does not generate \$9,000 in interest annually, and that funds would eventually be depleted.

MOTION – Johnson, seconded, to increase the number of scholarships to three, and to spend down the account until it reaches \$100,000; thereafter the scholarship amount would be locked in at the amount of interest generated the previous year. Motion carried (opposed by Bone, 11 A2).

Written Reports – Written reports were submitted by the All State Band Committee, White Cane Committee, Youth Exchange Committee and Membership Committee.

MOTION – McCray, seconded, to receive the written reports as submitted. Motion carried.

Leader Dog Committee Report – Frank Cunningham, PDG, Chair

Leader Dog School is hosting an open house during the MD 11 Convention from 2:00-4:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The event includes tours of the campus and 10-15 minute seminars on various topics. The gift shop will also be open. Leader Dog will provide buses to shuttle people to/from the hotel.

Leader Dog School is working with a new, improved GPS unit. Another change is to eliminate the use of poodles as dog guides. Grooming for this breed is too frequent and expensive for the average blind person. Leader Dog is working on allergy issues with other breeds.

Evaluation of State Treasurer and Executive Director - The Council conducted a performance review and presented the results to the State Treasurer and Executive Director.

**FOURTH COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING
LIONS OF MICHIGAN, MULTIPLE DISTRICT 11
RAMADA INN, LANSING, MI
SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2011**

Attendance – The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. It was attended by the following District Governors: Linda Tate, 11 A1; 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; Bill Stenback, 11 E2; and Gary Klop, SD 10. First VDGs in attendance were: Harold Stephens, 11 A1; Bob Bobee, 11 A2; Dan Shepherd, 11 B1; Jerry Pearson, 11 B2; Ken Frary, 11 C1; Ray Robins, 11 C2; Don Hartwick, 11 D1; Margaret Oldenburg, 11 D2; and John Monahan, 11 E1. Second VDGs present were: Steve Horvath, 11 A1; Jim Pettinato, 11 A2; Dick Dettling, 11 B1; Karen Ates, 11 D1; Dave Hacker, 11 D2; and William Simpson, 11 E1. Others present: Council Chair Frank Cunningham; Council Chair-Elect Roger LaMothe; PID Bill Hansen; PID Chuck Weir; State Treasurer Paul Hemeryck; and Executive Director Mary Brown.

Financial Report – *Paul Hemeryck, State Treasurer*

All accounts are operating within the budgets that were approved by the Council. Interest earnings help to offset deficits; but as losses escalate, eventually it will become necessary to cut expenses and/or raise dues. Year-to-date revenues are slightly below projections due to declining dues income. Treasurer Hemeryck explained the difference between designated, restricted and unrestricted accounts. He noted that excess funds in the Pin Account could be transferred to a dues-funded account.

The January 31, 2011 membership report showed three districts in MD 11 with net gains. However, overall membership for the MD was down 248 since July 1, 2010. Between June 30 of 1999 and January 31 of 2011, membership in MD 11 has fallen from 15,673 to 12,688—nearly 3,000 members.

The Lion Pride Magazine is a separate corporation. It shows a profit of approximately \$3,000 through the end of January, primarily because the Council reduced the number of issues to be published this year from nine to eight.

International Convention Attendance – In the past, the Lions of Michigan used to send both the Executive Director and the State Treasurer to the International Convention annually. Several years ago, a change was implemented to alternate their years of attendance at the International Convention and the USA/Canada Forum order to reduce expenses. Treasurer Hemeryck noted that the convention covers a longer time span and it is frequently held outside the North American continent. He suggested that sending them annually to the Forum instead would reduce expenses and would be more educational.

MOTION – Brown, seconded, to send the State Treasurer to the USA/Canada Forum in September instead of the International Convention in July. Motion carried.

Michigan Eye Bank Committee Report – The Eye Bank has separated state committee meetings and advisory council meetings. The state committee will meet at the Lions State Office on March 19. Committee members are responsible for contacting Lions Clubs to present programs about the Eye Bank and encourage donations. A DVD entitled “Seeing is Believing” is available.

Phase 2 of the “I Joined” program continues (whereby donors sign up at community events). PDG Sturgis provided CC Cunningham with statistics on eye tissue donors and recipients by district. “Buddy Day” takes place in April at Secretary of State offices throughout Michigan. Governors and/or 1st VDGs have been contacted about committee members who have not been active to discuss replacing them with Lions who will better contribute to Eye Bank’s promotional efforts.

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

This year's convention features a circus/carnival theme. Carnival games will be offered on Friday afternoon. That evening, a dinner is followed by entertainment ("Dueling Pianos"). Tickets must be purchased for the dinner, but the games and entertainment are free for all convention attendees.

As discussed at the December Council Meeting, a statue dedication was planned on Friday afternoon in downtown Detroit. DG Linda Tate explained that the statue might not be ready, but plans will proceed for a ground-breaking ceremony. All Governors are encouraged to attend.

The convention committee will host a hospitality room on Friday and Saturday nights. In addition, the hotel is offering happy hour specials for the Lions in the bar on both nights. The speaker has been confirmed for the convention. It will be ID Doug Alexander from New York. The All State Band will perform on Saturday afternoon.

The committee is scheduled to meet on March 19 to review bids for the 2013 MD 11 Convention. Their recommendations will be presented to the Council in May. The 2012 convention will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids.

Leadership Institute Report – *Paul Hemeryck, PDG*

The 2010 Leadership Institute was successful, and reviews were outstanding. All districts were asked to donate \$300 toward the Institute; to date two districts (D2 and E2) have not contributed.

This was the first year the Leadership Institute ran two "tracks," the regular course (with 68 participants) and a graduate course (with 27 participants). One advantage was that people didn't have to move from building to building. However, attendance for the graduate course was lower than anticipated. (Sixty participants at Leadership Institute and 40 participants at Graduate Institute is the desired number.)

The financial report shows a net loss through the end of December, but it does not reflect the final installment of the grant from LCI. A check for \$5,000 has just been received. As soon as the paperwork becomes available from LCI, the committee plans to submit a grant request for \$10,000 for the 2011 Leadership Institute, based on 100 participants.

First VDGs were encouraged to look at the list of Leadership Institute graduates for future leaders. The number of women who attend the institute has been increasing.

Orientation Report – *Clem Ruiz, PDG, Chairman*

The committee has developed a 4-part orientation program that can be used in every district. Chairman Ruiz asked each Governor to publicize the first page to the clubs in their district. He emphasized that it doesn't matter **when** orientation information is presented; clubs just need to do it.

Next year, MERL functions (including Orientation) will be combined under the new GMT/GLT structure.

Attendance at committee meetings has been poor; only three participated in the most recent meeting. During a brainstorming session, they noted that membership in half the districts in MD 11 is below 1,250. They recommended that the Council of Governors consider redistricting the entire state.

Michigan Forum Report (via conference call) – *Dave Zeller, PDG, Michigan Forum Chair*

There were 240 people registered for this year's Michigan Forum—the higher number ever. Evaluation forms showed that all of the breakout sessions were well received and the Saline Fiddlers were a real hit.

Attendees were also pleased with the presentation by the recipient of the White Cane Scholarship. There were a few problems with malfunctioning AV equipment and no-show presenters.

Evaluation forms reflected the following demographics on Forum attendees: 69 male, 60 female; 122 Lions, 6 Lioness; 4 age 20-40; 38 age 41-60; 82 age 61+; 53 attended 0-1 Michigan Forums in the past, 50 attended 2-5, and 20 attended 20+; 14 have been in Lionism 2 years or less, 50 for 3-10 years, 31 for 11-20 years, and 28 for 21+ years.

The committee will hold a meeting on March 28 to critique the event. Governors asked them to consider adding sessions for new and younger Lions and for Leo Club members. They also recommended a session called "Why Aren't You a Lion?" Other suggestions included providing daycare and encouraging attendees to turn in their evaluation forms by giving away a free registration to next year's Forum.

Publication Advisory Committee Report – PDG Jack Becher, Chairman, and Michelle Fields, Editor

In December, the company that was printing the Lion Pride Magazine notified the State Office that they were going out of business, effective January 1. The printer that previously provided the runner-up bid for the magazine was awarded an interim contract until bids could be solicited for a 3-year agreement. Bids were received from seven companies, and the Publication Advisory Committee met on February 19 to review them. Prices ranged from \$1,045 to \$1,700 for a 16-page issue. The committee recommends that the Council of Governors accept the lowest bid, from Newsweb Printing in Greenville. This is the company that has printed the past two issues.

MOTION – Johnson, seconded, to approve a 3-year contract with Newsweb Printing for publication of the Lion Pride Magazine. Motion carried.

This year, the Council cut the number of issues to be published from nine to eight. PDG Becher pointed out that every time an issue is eliminated, it reduces communication and contact with Lions Club members.

Magazine Editor Michelle Fields noted that a few districts continue to fall short in providing information and photos to fill their designated page. When this happens, unused space is filled with ads and state information. Also, last year's Council decided that copies of the magazine should not be sent to family members. However, anyone who wants two copies sent to the same household can request that their name be added to the mailing list.

Each year the Governors are assigned a month during which they are asked to submit an editorial and a Club of the Month. The first assignment always goes to the district in which the Chairman of the District Editors Committee resides.

A recent news story reported that Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe told the House Oversight Subcommittee on the Postal Service that "unless things change, the post office will run out of money by the end of the fiscal year in October." It is not known what changes are in store for the USPS or how they will affect the magazine; however, it is likely that there will be postage increases.

One option being explored by the Publication Advisory Committee is to reduce the physical size of the magazine, but to have more pages. It currently costs about 21-cents per issue for mailing; the smaller size could reduce the cost to about 15-cents per issue.

Project KidSight – Each district reported their progress in obtaining funding to purchase PediaVision cameras. The cost is approximately \$10,000 per unit.

District 11 A1 – The Plymouth Lions Club bought a camera.

District 11 A2 – Has one camera; they are applying for a grant for three more and have raised \$16,000 in matching funds

District 1 B1 – Has one camera.

District 11 B2 – Has one camera; working on two more.

District 11 C1 – Holding fundraisers to get a camera.

District 11 C2 – Had \$4,000 in an account to be applied toward the cost; raised additional \$3,000; asking for funding from Braille Transcribing.

District 11 D1 – About \$3,000 has been raised; will leverage funds raised against a grant from LCIF.

District 11 D2 – Not actively raising funds for a camera; expressed concern about the legality of using the PediaVision camera (i.e., whether it constitutes “practicing optometry” and/or “prescribing eyeglasses”).

District 11 E1 – No camera at this point.

District 11 E2 – The Elk Rapids Lions Club has purchased a camera; the district has raised \$6,000 toward a second camera.

SD 10 – No action has been taken because Linda Bosma indicated at the December Council Meeting that a grant from LCIF would enable every district to get a camera.

MOTION – Ramer, seconded, to ask Council Chairman Frank Cunningham to contact Linda Bosma about the status of Project Kidsight’s grant application to LCIF. Motion carried.

Governor McCray noted that the Manager of LCIF told the Governors when they visited Oak Brook last year that a no-match grant of \$100,000 is available to multiple districts for the purchase of PediaVision cameras. PID Chuck Weir asked the Council to get clarification, as he believed that no-match grants were limited to disaster relief only.

Most districts are running KidSight as a district project. They no longer rely on Project KidSight (the corporation) for film or reading of photographs.

Open Discussion of Redistricting – The proposed merger of Districts 11 B1 and 11 C2 has been withdrawn. PDGs Toby VanRiper and Esther LaMothe reported their observations about the unsuccessful effort, in hopes that their experience might be useful when/if redistricting is considered in the future. (1) Communication is important—but people don’t read; personal contact is needed. (2) Keep the PDGs out of it; they carry baggage and are resistant to change. (3) Cohesive leadership is needed; everyone must work together as a team. (4) Take your time—don’t move too fast; work out the details now not later.

The group discussed redistricting procedures and the possibility at some point in the future of redistricting all of the districts in MD 11 or all of the districts with fewer than 1,250 members. Mergers and redistricting do not change the total number of members; they change boundary lines. Why does redistricting happen? To create a bigger pool of members from which to draw committee chairs, zone chairs, vice governors and district governors. District Governors can share the duty of visiting clubs with the 1st and 2nd VDGs. Obstacles and concerns about redistricting include district size, geographical constraints and past practices. The overall trend in membership has been a continuous decline since 1985.

Two years ago, a committee was formed to study the possibility of redistricting MD 11. Numerous plans were developed, but the idea was dropped because it was too controversial. In order to succeed, guidance may be required from a neutral source. CC Frank Cunningham suggested that the Strategic Planning Committee look at redistricting. Governor Don Brown also offered to meet with the four Governors from other districts with fewer than 1250 members to discuss options.

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Report – PID Bill Hansen (substituting for Chairman Ed Weessies)

With the withdrawal of the proposed merger of Districts 11 B1 and 11 C2, there are no additional amendments to be acted upon by the Council. The Sterling Heights amendment (to rescind the student and family dues structure at the multiple district level) will be the only proposal to appear on the ballot at the MD Convention in May.

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT – PID Bill Hansen, Chairperson

The committee met in November to discuss procedures and develop a time line for selection and hiring of a new Executive Director. They met again in February to draft language for ads that will be placed. The wording is deliberately vague so good candidates are not eliminated because they don't meet very specific requirements. The next task is to determine where to place the ads. It is anticipated that they will run in the Lion Pride Magazine and on the state website beginning in June. In addition, the committee is investigating job postings on employment websites, such as CareerBuilder.com. The final ad copy and locations to run ads will be presented to the Governors for approval in May. A book entitled "Chief Executive Transitions" has been obtained from Board Source.

Applicants will be instructed to fax or email their resume and a cover letter. There will be no formal application form. The Search Committee will begin interviews in August. By September 1, they will recommend their top three choices to the Council of Governors. During mid- to late-September, the Governors will interview the candidates recommended by the Search Committee (with backup interviews in early October, if needed). The final hiring decision will be made by the Governors at their October 2011 Council Meeting. A one-month training period for the new person will begin approximately November 15.

Liaison Committee Report – PID Bill Hansen, (substituting for ID Gary Anderson)

Governors-Elect are encouraged to attend the Caucus at the International Convention in Seattle in order to meet the candidates for International Director. If there is someone they would like to have as a speaker at their district convention, they should talk to Dr. Gary Anderson about making arrangements. It is also recommended that Michigan Lions (particularly the DGEs) sit together as a group during the Plenary Sessions.

Suggestions were presented to the Governors regarding the hosting of an international guest at their district conventions. Give the job to someone in the district other than the convention chair or the District Governor. The host does not have to be a PDG. Ask the guest about his/her expectations; how much oversight do they want?

During his travels, ID Gary Anderson has observed that a lot of districts are way ahead of Michigan in future planning of conventions, leadership succession and goal setting. The Governors' primary focus should be management of their districts, not visiting clubs.

Lions Clubs International is presenting an amendment to increase dues at the International Convention in Seattle. While such proposals traditionally don't pass in the United States, it will appear on the ballot. If it fails, it will reappear at the 2012 convention in Korea, where it is likely to pass. As officers of Lions International, the District Governors have a responsibility to support the dues increase and be able to explain the rationale for it.

Multiple District GMT and GLT Coordinators

The only application for the GMT position came from PDG Wayne Kreitner.

MOTION – McCray, to appoint Wayne Kreitner as the MD 11 GMT Coordinator. Motion carried.

No applications were received for the GLT position. Governors and Vice Governors were asked to talk to Lions in their districts and encourage qualified individuals to apply. CC Cunningham will share all nominations that are received and conduct a vote of the Governors via email.

Public Relations Committee Report (via conference call) – Evelyn Cooper, Chairperson

The committee is requesting permission to implement a “dollar campaign” to raise funds for public relations. Lions Clubs will be asked to donate \$1 per member to the MD Public Relations Account. The committee chair will get information to clubs. The money will be used for the scrapbook contest, 5K walks, printing of flyers, etc. If funds come in quickly, funds could be used to post signs in shops and on streets in Auburn Hills to publicize the MD 11 Convention.

The Governors asked Lion Evelyn whether her committee had applied for a PR grant from LCI (no). They also pointed out to her that billboards are available from LCI.

MOTION – Tate, seconded, to approve the Public Relations Committee’s “dollar campaign.” Motion carried (opposed by Bone, A2; Brown, B2, and McCray, D1).

MOTION – Tate, seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried.