

Lions International

Multiple District 11

(Lower Michigan)



"We Serve"

**3rd Council of Governors Meeting
Saturday, December 5, 2020
Zoom Videoconference**

**3rd COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING
ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020**

The third meeting of the 2020-2021 Council of Governors was called to order by Council Chair Jeff Mayuiers at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom videoconference. Those in attendance were: **District Governors:** Joe Maki, District 10; David Wilbert, A1; Leo Schaefer, A2; David Anderson, B1; Julie Mayuiers, B2; Bob Hohendorf, C1; Kurt Stromlund, C2; Harold DeMott, D1; Sami Makhoul, D2; Bill Koch, E1; Rod Leathers, E2. **First Vice District Governors:** Jim Svinicki, District 10; Roshni Patel, A1; Jim Leach, Jr., A2; Terri Huffman, B1; Karol Chopp, B2; Ron Riebschleger, C1; Duane Wilcox, D1; Brian Betzold, D2; Bill Bradfield, E1; Bill Gaines, E2. **2nd Vice District Governors:** Gretchen Preston, D 10; Matthew Collins, A1; Traci Tribley, C2. Others in attendance: Council Chair Jeff Mayuiers, State Treasurer Paul Hemeryck, Lion Ed Weessies, IPDG Mike Scott, PDG Brent Beracy, PDG Evelyn Cooper; PDG David Wineman, Executive Director Wendy Burns. Also in attendance were: PID Esther LaMothe, PID Jenny Ware, PID Gary Anderson; PDG Connie Shelton, PDG Terry Walters, PDG David Hacker, PDG Karen Routson, PDG Ray Robins, PDG Lloyd Foster, Lion Becky Borka, Lion Matthew Tetloff.

The meeting opened with the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: Hohendorf, Schaefer, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

MOTION: Hohendorf, Stromlund, to approve the minutes of the October Council of Governors meeting. Motion carried.

MOTION: Hohendorf, Anderson, to approve the written reports, with the exception of the Leo Committee report, to be presented in person. Motion carried.

IPCC Jeff Hunt reported on the results of the Council Chair interviews which took place on Friday, December 4. The First Vice-Governors interviewed to qualified candidates for the position. PDG David Hill was selected to serve as the 2021-2022 Council Chair. Council Chair-Elect Hill stated he looks forward to working with the future class of 2021-2022 Governors and the council.

International Director Report –ID Justin Faber

ID Faber recently participated in the LCI Board of Directors meeting. The 2021 Convention in Montreal is still being planned and may be a combination of in-person sessions and virtual. The borders of Canada are still closed to many, and this will greatly impact the decisions on the 2021 convention. The convention will be held, but may look different from past years. ID Faber will keep Michigan Lions updated.

Zone Chair update: PDG can no longer serve as a Zone Chair, and the max for anyone to serve in this position is three (3) years.

Dues: International dues will increase by \$7.00 over the next three years. The increase will be in three increments: \$3.00, \$2.00, \$2.00. The total increase will be in effect by 2024.

The Executive Leadership members held a meeting to review the Michigan Model with the GAT members. The committee consists of Michigan PIDs and ID Faber who will provide a report to LCI leadership on the outcome of their mentoring group.

Lions Opportunities Virtual Leadership Forum –PID Jenny Ware, Chair
PID Ware shared the success of the Forum which had approximately 150 attendees for this first time event. She expressed great appreciation to the committee who worked for weeks investing their time and talents to make it happen. The complete webinar can be viewed on YouTube at the lionsofmi.tv site. To date it has been viewed 184 times with each presentation being viewed 23-28 times. Lions are encouraged to watch the webinar and use its resources. Included are great sessions with suggestions for fundraising and service.

MD 11 Global Action Team –PDGs Mike Scott, Brent Beracy, Evelyn Cooper
GLT Chair, PDG Michael Scott, held VDG training on Friday, December 4. “Servant Leadership” was the focus. We all bring our skills and expertise to the table and learn from one another. Protocol and leading a meeting were additional subjects covered, and PID Esther LaMothe and PDG Steven VanTol participated in the training. VDGs were given the chance to participate in Wheel of Fortune, spinning the wheel for a topic to cover in an impromptu speech. Committee chair selection was also covered during training.

GMT Chair, PDG Brent Beracy reported that as of November 30, our MD membership is 9670 which is -87 for the year. We’ve inducted 279 new Lions, but sadly have said goodbye to 366. Congratulations to Districts A1, A2, and D2 for being positive in the membership column for the Lions year. Congratulations also to DG Sami Makhoul and GMT IPDG Don Spinks for the new Deerfield Lions club in District D2.

Tri-State Membership Challenge has begun! CA-11 CC’s and MD-GMT’s met and shared ideas, enthusiasm for Lions and have entered into a friendly competition between our 3 states, MI, IN, and OH. As the winter months typically bring a drop in membership, a fun challenge between the MD’s measuring membership from December 1st through March 31st. The wager has not yet been decided yet, but monthly reports will be shared with the districts GMT’s. Watch the Lions Pride for more details, and Go MI Lions!

The following topics were also talked about in a roundtable discussion:

- Identified needs for ZC and Leadership training, Guiding Lion Training as well as training for clubs to be able to meet virtually.
- Membership retention and the importance of new member orientation. District B1 is working on a version of “What the heck is a Tail Twister?” to help.

- District A2 shared a questionnaire they used to decide which clubs in their district are open to help from the district. (I've also attached a copy to this report)

On another note, our MD only being -87 at this point in the year has shown the positive effects of our North American Membership Initiative. Each of our districts is in a different phase of North American Membership Initiative but is moving forward, and even during this pandemic, the efforts are showing. We can do it! We'll not give up!

GST Chair, PDG Evelyn Cooper provided an update as to how clubs are continuing to serve during the restrictions in place due to Covid-19. Halloween programs, food drives, holiday food baskets and making masks are just a few ways Lions have remained engaged. District Governors were asked to assist in notifying club presidents as to the need for each club to appoint a service chair to the committee.

Fundraising ideas were given, such as Face Book challenges, Birthday and Anniversary challenges as a way raise money in a friendly competition; sponsor a drive-in movie night; challenge to the districts to make masks. PDG Cooper suggested googling what clubs around the world are doing to gain fresh ideas.

PID Gary Anderson asked for a report on number of service hours and what clubs are not reporting? It was suggested the GST work with clubs and send a memo to get their service hours reported and assist those who do not know how to report. A club health report can be generated through MyLCI.

North American Membership Initiative –PDG David Wineman, Chair
PDG Wineman is encouraged by the many clubs which have shown recent activity. A webinar was held for 1st/2nds VDGs which covered such topics as team support, North American Membership Initiative, and service.

It was reported that MD 11-C1 has applied for a membership grant, available through LCI. LCI's website has many training tools available for use. Check the "insights" tab on the website to review all that is available.

PDG Wineman requested that LCI consider the inclusion of District 10 in Area 1T. The request was made based on the fact that D10 is located in Michigan with Lions serving our Michigan communities located in the Upper Peninsula.

The Council Chair and District Governors from Area 1T have met as a group and will continue working as a network alliance. Together, they will have a friendly competition to grow membership from December 1- March 31 in the first ever "Tri-State Challenge." This includes MD 11/District 10; Ohio and Indiana.

MD 11 Policy Manual –DGs Hohendorf, Mayuiers
Changes/additions made to the Policy Manual at the October Council of Governors meeting have been updated. The latest updates refer to Parliamentarian on page 5 and Committees on page 8. DGs Hohendorf and Mayuiers asked for a vote of support on

the updates to the 2020 MD 11 Policy Manual.

MOTION: Wilbert, Makhoul, to approve all changes/additions to the MD 11 Policy Manual as presented. Motion carried.

Constitution and By Laws –Lion Ed Weessies

There are no current proposals on the ballot for a membership vote at the MD 11 Convention in May. If there is a proposal to be considered, Lion Weessies will need to present it Constitution and By Laws committee who will draft the language. The proposal must be published in the Lion Pride 60 days prior to voting.

Convention Rules: The Rules of the Convention were reviewed and approved by the Constitution & By Laws committee. Lion Weessies asked for approval of the rules, which are the standard rules to be printed in the proceedings booklet and approved by the membership during the business session of the convention.

MOTION: Anderson/Stromlund, to approve the 2021 Rules of The MD 11 Lions Convention. Motion carried.

Financial Report –PCC Paul Hemeryck, Treasurer

All were presented with the financial report for review in November. All accounts are normal for this period. There is still money left in the Diabetes grant account that needs to be spent. To date, \$36,000.00 has been dispersed.

Expenses have been low at the state office with a reduction in payroll and operating expenses. The Lion Pride account is down by \$2,500.00 but will be recouped when the 2nd half dues are billed for the publication. Allocations (listed on page 5 of the report) are broken down to show where the money goes for member dues, which is an annual fee of \$10.00. Page six (6) detailed a membership graph from June, 2009 through October 31, 2020. Current membership stands at 9,667 in MD 11, down from 13,015 in 2009. The loss of members reflects a loss of revenue.

The good news is that the invest accounts are growing. There was a \$15,000 drop between August and October, and a \$45,000 increase from October to November. The following details were provided:

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|------|-----------|
| June | \$687,774 |
| Aug | \$720,861 |
| Oct | \$705,000 |
| Nov | \$752,774 |

DG Mayuiers questioned the funds that were spent in the Liaison account, and it was explained that it was for the Mackinac Island retreat in September.

VCC David Anderson reported he has still not had contact from PCC Brian Shepard regarding details of our investment accounts. Numerous emails and phone messages have gone unanswered, and he remains unresponsive. Treasurer Hemeryck will reach

out to PCC Shephard and ask him to return the call. DG Makhoul stated we should change investors immediately, as several months have gone by without contact from him and he suggested VCC Anderson's financial firm take over the accounts. DG Hohendorf asked for clarification on DG Makhoul's suggestion to move the account. He suggested that if this were to happen, we seek bids from new investment firms to transfer the accounts to. DG Koch motioned that we move accounts to a new firm.

MOTION: Koch, Hohendorf, to appoint VCC David Anderson to submit bids to alternate investment firms. Motion failed.

ID Justin Faber suggested appointing a committee to review investment firms. VCC Anderson, DG Julie Mayuiers and Treasurer Paul Hemeryck were appointed to the review committee.

Council Chair Mayuiers brought up a discussion held at the last meeting regarding the dues allotment. .40/member is held in the International Convention account. .24/member is held in the MD 11 Convention account. With the reduction in members attending the LCI-Con and an increase in member participation in the MD 11 Convention, CC Mayuiers asked for a motion to approve a "reverse" in the amounts designated to each account.

MOTION: Hohendorf, Stromlund, to change the dues structure from .40/per member for the LCI-Con to .24 per member; to change the dues structure from .24/per member for the MD 11 Convention to .40/per member for 2020/2021. Motion carried.

MD 11 Convention Report – PDG David Hacker, Chair

With the cancellation of the convention last year items such as the theme, picnic, and events were moved to 2021. The speaker has been confirmed and will be President Choi. The picnic on Thursday night will take place at Paws with a Cause and a tree-planting ceremony will take place to honor President Choi's visit. PDG Hacker will work on creating a welcome banner for President Choi announcing his visit. There will be a gong show for Friday night's entertainment and PDG Hacker asked the DGs to get creative and provide a skit or skits. For a service project we will hold a food drive, asking a local shelter for a list of items needed that our members can supply. Committee member VDG Terri Huffman will assist with PDG Evelyn Cooper and the District GST in coordination of the project.

PDG Hacker is looking into extra funding from LCI for states holding milestone anniversaries and/or hosting a seated president. Treasurer Hemeryck stated the convention fund currently has \$6,643.00 in the account. That amount will increase due to the change in membership dues allocated to the convention fund. He will provide an accurate amount to PDG Hacker.

The next meeting of the convention committee will be held via Zoom on December 12, and PDG Hacker invited the Governors to try and attend a future meeting to see what is being done. It is hoped that the committee will meet in person on Jan. 13 or their

February 13 meeting. Governors will be notified of the meetings in advance.

VCC Anderson asked if an alternate virtual convention is being planned for backup and the answer was yes, the committee is preparing for some type of webinar if unable to hold the convention in person in Holland.

LCIF –PDG Connie Shelton, Chair

Campaign 100 is still active! Due to COVID-19, LCIF extended the Campaign to June 2022. Michigan has benefited this year from several COVID grants of \$10,000 each; 3 Flood Disaster Grants of \$10,000 each; several Matching Grants; Community & District Grants; finalized the Hunger Grant and a Diabetes Grant. Grant monies this year have gone to Leader Dogs, Bear Lake Camp and Eversight.

It is always the right time to come together and support the greater good with [#LCIFLions](#). PDG Shelton asked that the Governors and the council please consider continuing to support with a \$20 gift, or anyway that you can. PDG Shelton provided a power point presentation covering LCIF Legacy Letter; LCIF Gift Declaration; Charitable Bequests and Beneficiary Designations.

Michigan Lions Virtual Forum –PDG Karen Routson

This years' Forum will be a virtual event titled "The SERVICE Must Go On!" There will be up to five (5) session 20-minute sessions with a focus on service. The keynote address will be given by VDG Daniel Marney Elkins who will present a variation of his presentation at the USA/Canada Forum: How Do We Approach the Younger Generation? The tech team that supported the Lion's Opportunities in a Virtual World will be asked to assist with putting the webinar together as a pre-recorded program to air on Saturday, February 27, 2021.

PDG Routson spoke with the organizer of Arizona's mid-winter conference which was held as a virtual event. Lion Richard Stevenson had reported via Face Book the event was not as popular as in-person events, pointing to the idea that the novelty of on-line gatherings is waning. The committee is challenged to package and promote the Michigan Lions Forum and to create an excellent program with a great turnout.

Hunger Report –PDG Lloyd Foster

PDG Foster provided statistics for food insecurities among Michigan residents. With unemployment rates elevated and food banks reporting increased demand, the number of people experiencing food insecurity is rising due to the pandemic.

Michigan – Child Population 2,175,821 with a projected food insecurity percentage of 23.6% by the end of the year, up from 15.9%.

Michigan's total population of those with food insecurities went from 13.7% last year to an estimated 18.7% by the end of 2020.

PDG Foster expressed enthusiasm for President Choi's visit in May, and would like to arrange for him to visit the new freezers at the Hunger for Christ mission. The mission

benefited from an LCIF grant which allowed for the purchase of new freezers and this would enable President Choi to see LCIF funds at work in Michigan.

Publication Advisory/District Editors Report –DG Julie Mayuiers

Six of the eleven District Editors met in November. PCC Barry Allen has been of great assistance in his efforts to keep current the mailing database. The Pride account is charged a fee of .55 for every returned publication. This is mainly due to bad address from the LCI database. With the constant updates, the cost is kept to a minimum. All returns that are received by the state office are sent to PCC Allen for editing, eliminating time spent on this by staff. DG Mayuiers asked Governors to send information on their travels or club updates to their district editors. Not all editors are providing this news in their monthly newsletters. Without club news to report, and not wanting to leave the space empty in the Lion Pride, Lion Wendy Burns must fill the void by researching club events which is time consuming. Encourage your editors and clubs to submit news items to your district editor. GAT Chairpersons and NoAm Membership Initiative Chair are asked to continue to submit monthly updates, as well. Governors are each assigned a month in which they can submit an article on the topic of their choice.

Leo Report –PDG Terry Walters

PDG Walters discussed the need for funds to cover future expenses to reach the goal of supporting the 32-35 Leo Clubs in MD 11. Funds would be used for:

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|---|------------------|
| Mailing/printing | \$125 |
| Materials for 4 new clubs | \$160 |
| Financial support of statewide Leo project (\$40x32) | <u>\$1280</u> |
| Total Budget | \$1565.00 |

MOTION: Anderson, Makhoul, to approve the budget request for the Leo Committee of \$1565.00.

When asked if funds were available in the Leo account, Treasurer Hemeryck reported there is \$11,000.00 in the Leo account. Without funds to support the balance of the request, it was suggested the money come from the DG Special Project Fund.

MOTION: Anderson, Makhoul, to amend the motion for request of funds to transfer from the DG Special Project Fund additional funds needed to fulfill the request of \$1565.00. Motion carried.

PDG Walters complimented the Leo members on the great strides they are making this year, via virtual meetings and service projects.

Executive Director Report –Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director

The state office has been very active this past month with planning for both the MI Lions

Forum and MD 11 Convention taking place for our 2021 Lion events.

Lions of MI All State Band –Plans are in the works for the 2021 trip to Montreal. Students who did not request refunds from last year had their money rolled into 2021. Cost for Montreal is \$2,299. Without a State Chairperson to lead the district chairs, there is a break in communication. CEO Becky Dahlke is aware of this situation as has been asked to look to the band Board of Directors to fill the vacancy, but this has not happened yet. Without direction, information on where to send donations checks isn't clear, word doesn't get out to the schools about the band and the only students who know about the program are the members from last year.

New Clubs – Any newly formed clubs should send a copy of their charter papers to the state office to have on file.

Additional Webinars –With a format in place to air webinars on the Lionstv You Tube site, this might be a great opportunity to put a committee in place to create learning opportunities that are on-going. It was suggested that this be reviewed and a list of topics compiled as a starting point.

February Council Meeting –With the cancellation of the in-person version of the MI Forum, a need for a new meeting date and meeting space was necessary. The Holiday Inn & Suites, Mt. Pleasant has offered to hold space for our February meeting on the weekend of **February 19-20**. This would be a week before the scheduled MI Forum on Saturday, February 27.

Governors will be invited to attend the March MD Convention meeting to review details of the convention and their roll. Information will be sent soon with details of their role in the convention. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the state office on Saturday, March 13, 10:00 a.m. ID Justin Faber stated he is still waiting to confirm speakers/convention dates for a few of the district conventions before he can complete this task.

Open Forum –District Governors

CC Mayuiers used this time for anyone to report news of their districts.

DG Makhoul is working on the formation of a new club with up to 30 prospective members at this time. The “Healthy Lions Club” will consist of primarily health care providers or those who work in the industry. This is an exciting opportunity to form a club such as this.

DG Koch shared that in his district of 11 E1, there are 15 clubs without meeting space due to state restrictions of meeting capacity or closures. It has been difficult to motivate functioning clubs and he asked for any helpful suggestions. Lion Wendy offered the use of the toll free teleconference line for those clubs who are unable to meet right now. For many, internet and zoom meeting may not be the best option.

VDG Terri Huffman suggests contacting food pantries to see what help is needed. Many may need assistance cleaning, restocking and organizing their facility. This would be a great service project.

PDG Brent Beracy pointed out this is a great time to form a cyber club or a branch club. Only 5 members are needed and he is ready to assist you.

DG Maki noted that when this is all behind us we need to focus on re-energizing our clubs again.

DG Leo Schaefer reported that District A2 is working on completion of a video which is about who Lions are in the District, what they do, etc., and is a PR tool to encourage membership. They will invite the public to an informal evening and show the video and hopefully recruit new members. PDG Ray Robins suggested adding the video to the Lionstv.You Tube page.

The meeting was adjourned and the Governors and Vice District Governors stayed on for closed session to nominate S.A. Dodge and LCI Award recipients.

Meeting adjourned from closed session at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director