

Lions International

Multiple District 11

(Lower Michigan)



"We Serve"

**1st Council of Governors Meeting
August 4-5, 2023
Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant, MI**

Lions Clubs of Michigan
1st Council of Governors Meeting
August 4-5, 2023
Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant, MI

The first meeting of the 2023-2024 Lions year was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council Chair John Daoud. Those in attendance: District Governors Lula Gardfrey, A1; Kelley Unruh, A2; Annette Hemeryck, B1; Amy Thackston, B2; Michael O'Lonergan, VCC C1; Ted Hamilton, C2; Bill Bauder, D1; Jim White, D2; Jim Patterson, E1; Steve Murch, E2. 1st Vice District Governors in attendance: La Wonna Lofton-Coleman, A1; Rhonda Furby, A2, Louvenia Shack-Seals, B1; Carl Cozart, C2; Jonathan VanTol, D1; Judy Keller, D2; Ken Hisey, E1; Denny Gocha, E2. 2nd Vice District Governors in attendance: Mark Scicluna, A2; Jerry Whitney, D1; Marie Leathers, E2; Colleen Maki, District 10. Others in attendance included PID Esther LaMothe, IPCC Ron Gibson, PCC Paul Hemeryck, State Treasurer, Lion Ed Weessies, Parliamentarian, PDG Ray Robins, IT and Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director.

Immediate Past Council Chair Ron Gibson installed PDG John Daoud as the 2023-2024 Council Chair, presenting him with his gavel and bell. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the installation.

MOTION: Bauder, Unruh, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

MOTION: Gardfrey, Murch, to approve the DGE minutes of May 19, 2023. Motion carried.

MOTION: Hamilton, Bauder to receive and place on file the minutes of the May 19 Council of Governors meeting. Motion carried.

MOTION: Patterson, Thackston, to receive the Written Reports as presented. Motion carried.

Lions All State Band Report – Lion Deb Davis, CEO

The 2023 Michigan Lions Band was comprised of nearly 30 high school band students from across the state of Michigan. Together, they embarked on the adventure of a lifetime and shared their phenomenal musical skills everywhere they went. If the Lions' motto is "We Serve", the Lions of Michigan All-State Band upheld this mantra by serving every destination they visited through the gift of music. The band leadership was able to rebuild and prepare a fresh musical selection for their 2023 tour to Boston and New York. Auditions began in October of 2022, utilizing traditional in-person auditions and online video submissions. Among the auditions were 24 talented individuals who showcased their musical abilities and earned the opportunity to travel across the country and perform at various locations throughout Boston and New York City. On the voyage home, the band gave their final performance of the tour at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky, Ohio.

If someone you know is a high school musician seeking the opportunity of a lifetime, we're delighted to inform you that auditions for the 2024 tour to Australia are now open. High school band students can easily submit video auditions through the Lions Band website (www.lionsmiband.org) until December 15th, 2023. The tour cost for 2024 is yet to be determined.

MOTION: O'Lonergan, Unruh, to accept the LMASB report. Motion carried.

Leadership Institute Report

IPDG Traci Tribley stated the date has been changed to Saturday, November 3 – Monday, November 6 and will be held once again at the MacMullan Center in Roscommon. This will be the first year for the Faculty Development Institute to be held in conjunction with the traditional Leadership Institute. The Graduate program will not be offered this year. Registration will be available soon.

MOTION: Thackston, Gardfrey, to accept the Leadership Institute report. Motion carried.

Information Technology Report – PDG Ray Robins, Chair

It was reported that many of the districts now own their own Owl recording systems to support virtual meetings. PDG Robins has a standing offer to assist anyone in need of training on how to use the equipment and has already helped many. The Lions of Michigan owns two OwlPro recording devices and all the miscellaneous equipment to go with it, but there is still a need for a budget this year to include additional expenses. There is a need for a video camera for recording and various supplies such as batteries and microphones. An estimated budget in the amount of \$1,870.00 was submitted for consideration. Budgets will be discussed and determined at the October Council of Governors meeting.

Governor Michael O'Lonergan expressed appreciation on behalf of the Council for the work Lion Ray does to keep our meeting accessible to all.

MOTION: Bauder, Patterson, to accept the Information Technology report. Motion carried.

Human Resources – PID Esther LaMothe

PID LaMothe brought to the attention of the council the fact that the state office does not have a succession policy in place or an updated contract for the Executive Director. The last contract was signed in 2011-2012. PID LaMothe assisted the Lions of Michigan Foundation in creating such a policy a few years ago and offered her assistance for the Lions of Michigan. She recommended a committee be formed to include the Council Chair and Vice Council Chair, along with herself. If approved, the committee will report back to the Council at the October meeting.

MOTION: White, Bauder, to create a Human Resource committee made up of PID LaMothe, Council Chair Daoud and Vice Council Chair O'Lonergan to review the Executive Director contract and create a succession plan. Motion carried.

Committee Chair Endorsement – Governors

There were a few outstanding State Chairperson positions from the May DGE meeting that have now been filled. Those new to the committee and approved by the Governors are: Lion Alvie Marvil, Youth Exchange; VDG La Wanna Lofton-Coleman, International Convention; PDG Paul Hodge, Vice Chair, Constitution & By Laws.

MOTION: O’Loneragan, Gardfrey, to approve the list of 2023-2024 State Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs. Motion carried.

Eversight Report – PDG Kurt Stromlund, Chair

Governors were provided with the fellowship total for their district. It was reported that all districts have appointed a chair and PDG Stromlund will be holding their first meeting in October via Zoom. Eversight announced they will provide eye banking service in Arizona in collaboration with Donor Network or Arizona, allowing them to maximize the gifts of life, sight and mobility in Arizona.

In the period between January 1 and June 30, 2023, 967 Michigan donors gave the gift of sight as cornea/eye donors. The breakdown is as follows:

- Cornea Tissue Transplant Recipients – 714
- Tissues Placed for Research – 458
- Tissues Placed for Surgeon Education – 143

PDG Stromlund provided a very detailed list of Goals and Objectives for the year, covering each month of the year. The council appreciates the dedication PDG Stromlund has given as State Chair of the Eversight committee.

Tail Twister Fines – DG Lula Gardfrey

Governor Gardfrey is no stranger to twisting tails and collected fines from everyone present.

MOTION: Hemeryck, Unruh, to recess until Saturday at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Lions Clubs of Michigan 1st Council of Governors Meeting Saturday, August 5, 2023 Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant, MI

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Daoud at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance: Those in attendance: District Governors Lula Gardfrey, A1; Kelley Unruh, A2; Annette Hemeryck, B1; Amy Thackston, B2; Michael O’Loneragan, VCC C1; Ted Hamilton, C2; Bill Bauder, D1; Jim White, D2; Jim Patterson, E1; Steve Murch, E2. 1st Vice District Governors in attendance: La Wanna Lofton-Coleman, A1; Rhonda Furby, A2, Louvenia Shack-Seals, B1; Carl Cozart, C2; Jonathan VanTol, D1; Judy Keller, D2; Ken Hisey, E1; Denny Gocha, E2. 2nd Vice District Governors in attendance: Mark

Scicluna, A2; Jerry Whitney, D1; Marie Leathers, E2; Colleen Maki, District 10. Others in attendance included IPID Justin Faber, PID Esther LaMothe, IPCC Ron Gibson, PCC Paul Hemeryck, State Treasurer, Lion Ed Weessies, Parliamentarian, PDG Ray Robins, IT and Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director.

The meeting opened with the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Council Chair Daoud shared the message behind the Challenge Pin: Mission 1.5. This is a membership initiative inspired by LCI to raise our membership to 1.5 million by the year 2027. This translates to a 4% increase in membership each year. We are all asked to accept the challenge.

Global Leadership Team Report – IPDG Traci Tribley

The first of four training sessions was held on Friday with great attendance from the 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors. The District Governors Manual was one of many topics covered. IPDG Tribley plans on offering District GLT training opportunities throughout the year as needed, as opposed to the annual training that has been the custom. She looks forward to working with both VDGs and District GLT members.

MOTION: Gardfrey, Bauder, to accept the Global Leadership Team report. Motion carried.

Global Membership Team Report – IPDG Shawn Blaszczyk

MD 11 stats: There were 9,084 members recorded at the end of July and records through Aug. 4 indicate 9,036. Records also show MD 11's new member retention rate is 56%. District 10 is on the rise with a +9 in their roster. The GMT will focus on retaining members in addition to adding new. An August 27th Zoom meeting is scheduled for August 27 with the District GMT and will cover MISSION 1.5, LCI's latest campaign to increase membership, the GMA process to rejuvenate, revitalize and remotivate, goal setting, district orientation and more.

Guiding Lion training is now offered on LCIs website and IPDG Blaszczyk will work with the District GMT members on creating awareness and implementation of extension, leadership, and membership.

MOTION: Hemeryck, Gardfrey, to accept the Global Membership report. Motion carried.

Global Service Team Report – PDG Terri Huffman

Everyone was treated to a jar of honey as a symbol of the busy-as-bees year ahead. The outcome of our efforts will be that so many will benefit from the work Lions will have accomplished.

The District Governors were presented with a special project to start the new year off. At this year's International Convention in Boston, we were introduced to the HOPE TO WALK project organizers. This project provides artificial leg kits to children and

adults in Guatemala for only \$250. This 501c 3 program is run by donations and grants. They are partnering with the Lions to provide as many kits as is financially possible. District Governors have been asked to fund raise with their clubs to donate towards at least one leg kit. www.Hopetowalk.org to learn more. PDG Huffman challenged the council to raise funds to purchase one prosthetic kit between now and the December council meeting.

The second project is making and donating tied blankets for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace Project. We will donate directly to this project or Districts can identify shelters or programs that they would like to donate blankets to. This will all be worked out with the District GST. The blankets will be made at the MD Forum.

The third project is the Kids Coalition Against Hunger food packaging project where we will financially support the project and package foods for inner city programs who provide meals to families and children. This program was presented at last year's MD Convention by Michael Burwell from KCAH. We will put the packages together at the MD Convention for our group service project.

PDG Huffman outlined her goals for the year which includes monthly meeting with the District GST and providing resources to record service by utilizing the new LCI site once it is up and running.

MOTION: O'Lonergan, Unruh, to accept the Global Service Team report. Motion carried.

MD 11 Convention Report – PDG Dave and Lion Brenda Hacker, Co-Chairs

The 2022 Convention was an extraordinary success, thanks to the many who put in so much time and effort.

The committee has reviewed proposals for 2024 from six (6) hotels, which include the Delta Kalamazoo, Raddison Kalamazoo, Traverse City Park Place Hotel, Sheraton Grand Rapids and Crowne Plaza Lansing. The best proposal the committee recommends is the Sheraton Grand Rapids. The room rate is \$109.00 and the food and beverage minimum, along with meeting space charges, are within our normal budget. The committee requests a vote by the Governors to move forward with a contract.

MOTION: O'Lonergan, Hamilton, to approve the 2024 MD 11 Lions Convention be held at the Sheraton by Marriott hotel located in Grand Rapids, MI. Motion carried.

MOTION: Hemeryck, Thackston, to accept the MD 11 Convention report. Motion carried.

Lions Youth Exchange Report – Lion Elvie Marfil, Co-Chair

Lion Marfil will work with partners PDG Roshni Patel and Lion Eileen Delany on building the Youth Exchange Program in Michigan. Plans include bringing back the LYEX camp experience and the site of Lions Bear Lake Camp has been confirmed for 2024.

Lions Youth Exchange Program provides young people with a unique opportunity to:

- Participate in everyday life in another culture
- Reside with a host family
- Serve as an ambassador for international understanding
- Participate in local customs

The sponsoring Lions club, the student's family, or both, are responsible for the cost of the student's international travel and insurance. Lion Marfil will work with the district chair person's to have a strong presence at their district sponsored events. Each district will be asked to donate \$1,000 to the program. A budget was submitted for consideration from the Governors.

Proposed Budget
Lions Youth Camps and Exchange
2023-2024
Projected 4 Students going out of the country
Projected 20 Students coming into Michigan, USA

YEP Project Night Donation @ \$1,000/District = \$10,000.00

Students Expenses	
T-shirts 50 pcs.	\$500.00
Back pack 10 pcs	200.00
Lapel Pins 100 pcs	575.00
Friendship Banner 100 pcs	525.00
Outgoing Students grant (4 Students @ \$200 ea.)	800.00
Total Expenses	\$2,600.00

Exhibit – Promotional Expenses

Booklets printing	
Pens giveaways	
Flashlights giveaways	
Posters	
Brochures/Fliers	
Club Banner Patch 30 pcs	
Total Expenses	\$2,300.00

Host Families Per Student (20 Students)

Gas and Entertainment Expenses (\$150.00/student)	
Total Expenses	\$3,000.00

Administrative Expenses

Postage	
Camp Adult chaperon (4 Lions or non Lions)	

Other Misc. Expenses
Total Expenses

\$1,000.00

Grand Total Expenses

\$8,900.00

Reserved

\$1,100.00

Note: Other supplies can be used for the coming years.

Reported by: Lion Elvie Marfil
MD 11 Chai

PDG Roshni Patel
MD 11 Co-Chair

Lion Eileen Delaney
MD 11 Advisor

MOTION: Bauder, White, to approve the Youth Exchange Report. Motion carried.

Budget request will be reviewed at the October Council of Governors meeting.

Childhood Cancer Report – Lion Darlene Anderson

Lion Anderson provided an overview of the goals and objective she plans to incorporate this year with the help of the District Childhood Cancer Chairs. Top of the list is to visit all three nonprofits the committee is focused on for supporting: Maggie's Wigs for Kids, Camp Quality, and Kids Kicking Cancer. She plans to include the district chairs in these visitations to see first hand what these nonprofits are accomplishing. There are also plans to work on a fundraising project and to hold a session at the MD 11 Convention. A budget will be drafted for consideration, as well. Lion Anderson is in the process of contacting the children's hospitals/cancer centers in Michigan that are working with Lions and will provide her contact or district chair contact information, and any other updated information about Lions they may need.

MOTION: Bauder, Gardfrey, to approve the Childhood Cancer Report. Motion carried.

Financial Report – PCC Paul Hemeryck, State Treasurer

Treasurer Hemeryck provided handouts of the detailed financial reports. The reports were previously submitted through email to allow Governors for time to review in advance. The Lions of Michigan revenue, expenses and fund balances were all reviewed. The investment market accounts show a balance of \$18,849.00 and the state office shows a loss of \$22,927.00 for the period of July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023. The Council Committee/Treasurer account has a loss of \$8,577.00 mainly due to expenses incurred for GLT training of VDGs and expense reimbursement. LCI sent a reimbursement of \$1,900.00 in late July which will be added to the account. The MD 11 Convention had a loss of \$4,185.00. Much of this can be attributed to the reimbursement cost to Governors and guests, additional comps for speakers, and meeting space charges due to attrition costs incurred when the guest room quota fell short.

The loss of members already in the month of July will result in a loss of revenue for the state office. Treasurer Hemeryck feels now is the time to have a serious discussion on

dues increase to stop the continued loss of revenue. We do have funds in the investment account which total \$508,068.00 but for our future we need to improve the revenue.

The question was raised if funds can be transferred to accounts if needed and the answer is yes. The District Governors can vote on transfers as long as they are not transferring from restricted accounts.

Council Chair Daoud stressed that this council is the answer to helping increase membership, with DG Murch suggesting this needs to be the council to raise dues. When asked about the process to achieve a proposed dues increase to a vote before the membership, Lion Ed Weessies shared the proper steps. The DGs will suggest a proposal to be created by the Constitution and By Laws committee, who will then draft the language for the Governors to approve. Once approved, the ballot proposal will appear in the Lion Pride publication in advance of the MD 11 Convention.

Council Chair Doud appointed DG Murch to a committee to research the dues increase past history and increase amount to be reported on at the next meeting. DGs Murch, White, Unruh, Hamilton and Gardfrey will be on the committee to report their findings at the October Council of Governors meeting in Gaylord.

In 2020 there was a proposal to increase by \$2.00 - \$3.00 but the proposal was dropped with the cancellation of the 2020 convention due to Covid restrictions. Lion Burns will provide the former proposal to DG Murch.

MOTION: K. Unruh, A. Hemeryck, to receive the financial report. Motion carried.

The Kindness Matters Award is a service award given by LCI. GST Huffman will accept nomination by October 1 for review and submission to LCI. Details are available on the LCI website along with the application form.

The MD 11 Policy Manual is reviewed every year by the District Governors who have the authority to make changes each year. A review committee was appointed and will include Council Chair Daoud, Vice Council Chair O'Lonegan, and DG Gardfrey. Governors shall review the manual and send any suggestion to the review committee for consideration. Recommendations will be presented in October.

LCI Update – PID Justin Faber

LCI has endorsed candidate Manoj Shaw, CA8 Africa, for 3rd Vice President. Candidate Shaw will be voted upon in Melbourne, Australia in 2024 and PID Faber asked the Governors to endorse PID Shaw. There are other candidates, but PID Shaw is who LCI has endorsed, and they ask that MD 11 follow suit.

MOTION: Hamilton, O'Lonergan to endorse PID Manoj Shaw, CA8 Africa, for the position of 3rd Vice President of LCI, 2024-2025. Motion carried.

PID Faber was excited to announce the 1st Annual Cajun Festival to be held in conjunction with the Ubly Lions Club and the Lions of Louisiana. All are invited for a great time in Ubly on October 7.

Over \$30,000 was raised at the MD 11 Convention for LCIF in support of PIP Douglas Alexander. PID Faber will co-chair the LCIF committee in Michigan with PDG Harold Stephens for the remainder of the year. The LCIF committee has met and will be discussing a project at the MD 11 Convention. Donations in Michigan are only at 3% overall and the committee will be looking at ways to increase giving. As a reminder to all, there are service grants available for hunger, cancer, diabetes, and others that clubs and districts can look into applying for.

A Melvin Jones Fellow Celebration will be held in Port Sanilac and IPIP Brian Sheehan is the invited guest of honor. Watch for details!

PID Faber said a new giving campaign to donate \$25,000 over five years has been initiated and DG Jim White has made the commitment to donate to this new campaign.

MOTION: White, Gardfrey, to approve the LCI report. Motion carried.

Lions Bear Lake Camp Report – PDG Jack Patton, Chair

Summer has been busy for LBLC with campers coming and going and storms knocking down trees and power. All is going well, and they are running full speed. Consider sponsoring a camper this year or in the future for \$850.00. The District LBLC committee will be looking into locally sponsored community grants and camper sponsorships. The camp Open House will be held August 25-26 for all council members and Lions to visit camp and learn more. The Golf outing will held Sunday, August 20 and they are looking for hole sponsors. Cost in just \$100/hole sponsor. PDG Terri Huffman challenged the council to make a donation on behalf of the 2023-2024 Council of Governors to show their support for Lions Bear Lake Camp and collected \$100.00 on the spot.

MOTION: White, Bauder, to approve the Lions Bear Lake Camp report. Motion carried.

Executive Director Report – Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director

A successful convention with a great turnout from Michigan. Michigan was well represented in one of the parades on record, and the Michigan Night Harbor boat tour was foggy with no visible sunset, but you could not have asked for a better time or better company.

State Committee Chair Training was held on July 22 with a great turnout of 17 committee members showing up both in person and via Zoom. You can see by the volume of Written Reports and State Chair reports that they paid attention! Executive Director Burns, Council Chair Daoud, and IT Chair Ray Robins led the training which covered their role as a state chair, the MD 11 Policy Manual, preparing goals and budgets, reporting to the Council and their District, among other topics.

USA/Canada Forum will be held soon in Reno, and those interested in attending the Midwest Breakfast will have the opportunity to register soon. Kansas is hosting this year.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: The October council meeting held at TreeTops will fill up quickly reserve now. December is a new-to-us location in Lansing at the Hilton Garden on West Saginaw St. We will review the awards in October and vote on them in December. December is when the 1st Vice District Governors will elect their 2024-2025 Council Chair.

Tail Twister Fines – Governor Lula Gardfrey

DG Gardfrey once again twisted our tails and collected a total of \$100.00 for the weekend. Discussions will continue on ways to distribute fine money collected throughout the year.

MOTION: Unruh, Hemeryck, to adjourn the Council of Governors meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director