

Lions International

Multiple District 11

(Lower Michigan)



"We Serve"

**3rd Council of Governors Meeting
December 2-3, 2022
Grand Rapids, MI**

3rd Council of Governors Meeting
Friday, December 2, 2022
Holiday Inn Downtown, Grand Rapids, MI

The third meeting of the 2022-2023 Council of Governors was called to order on Friday, October 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. by Council Chair Ron Gibson. Those in attendance were Matt Collins, A1; Shawn Blaszczyk, A2; Kelly Lubbe, B1; Diane Wehby, C1; VCC Traci Tribley, C2; Jack Frost, D1; Shawn Wightman, D2; Jackie Glazier, E1; Rod Leathers, E2. **1st Vice District Governors** in attendance: Lula Gardfrey, A1; Kelley Unruh, A2; Annette Hemeryck, B1; Michael O’Lonergan, C1; Ted Hamilton, C2; Bill Bauder, D1; Jim Patterson, E1; Steve Murch, E2. **2nd Vice District Governors** in attendance: La Wonna Lofton-Coleman, A1; Rhonda Furby, A2; Jonathan VanTol, D1; Judy Keller, D2; Bob Roebuck, E1. **Also present:** IPID Justin Faber, PID Gary Anderson, PID Esther LaMothe, Council Chair Ron Gibson, PCC Paul Hemeryck, PDG Dave Wineman, PDG Ray Robins, PDG Brent Beracy, IPDG Terri Huffman, IPDG Roshni Patel, Lion Ed Weessies and Executive Director Wendy Burns.

The meeting opened with the invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and welcome to those in attendance and on Zoom.

MOTION: Collins, Glazier, to approve the December 2-3, 2022, Council of Governors agenda as presented. Motion carried

MOTION: Blaszczyk, Tribley, to approve the October 2022 Council of Governors minutes. Motion carried.

Introduction of the 2022-2023 Council Chair:

IPCC Dave Hill oversaw the Council Chair interviews conducted by the 1st Vice District Governors earlier in the day. Four (4) qualified candidates were interviewed and the VDGs selected PDG John Daoud, MD 11 A1, to serve as their Council Chair in 2023-2024.

Lions Michigan Forum Report – PDG Jim Leach, Jr., Chair

Plans are nearly complete for the Michigan Forum to be held on February 25, 2023 at the Double Tree Airport Hotel, Grand Rapids. There will be 16 breakout sessions, with a service project to take place on Friday evening at Kid’s Food Basket at their office in Grand Rapids. GST Chair Terri Huffman is coordinating this event. The luncheon speaker will be Dustin Dale. White Cane Scholarship recipients will be recognized during the luncheon. Lion Wendy Burns passed around a sign up sheet for room moderators to assist with introducing the speaker, handing out materials and post session surveys. PID LaMothe asked if the Forum would be available on Zoom. There are no current plans, but the keynote address could be recorded and added to the Lions YouTube channel after the event is over.

Past International Director’s Report – IPID Justin Faber

IPID Faber talked about the accountability pilot program started in Michigan with the

GAT leaders. The program is now being utilized in several states in the USA as well as in India and soon, Australia.

LCI 3rd VP candidate Mark Lyon has expressed appreciation to MD 11 for their endorsement of his candidacy. Voting will take place during the LCI convention in Boston in July.

The Ubyly Lions Club hosted an appreciation dinner to honor IPID Faber's 3-year term as International Director. It was a great turnout and IPID Faber expressed appreciation to all who attended.

IPID Faber will remain active with LCI in many areas of leadership. He is the sessions leader for the USA/Canada Forum for 2023 and the new area leader for LCIF, a position recently held by PID Esther LaMothe. He challenged CC Gibson and the Council to raise \$2,000.00 for LCIF during the council meeting this weekend.

Global Leadership Team – IPDG Roshni Patel, Chair

The 3rd VDG training was held earlier in the day with presentations on service by GST Chair IPDG Terri Huffman, IPID Faber on grants and IPDG Roshni Patel on LCIF. Handouts were provided on all the reporting District GLT Chairs with updates on what is happening in the districts. IPDG Patel will hold one more training to take place at the February Council meeting.

Global Service Team – IPDG Terri Huffman, Chair

The Michigan Forum's service project will be held on-site at the Kid's Food Basket headquarters. District GST members have been assigned a food item to bring to this group service event and will be used for packaging up food sacks. KFB will use the snacks provided by Lions to complete their supper packets provided to area students.

The MD Convention service project will be a sock drive. IPDG Huffman and GST chairs have been getting word out to the districts to be collecting socks and at this time it was reported that 12,414 pairs of socks have been collected to date! They will be distributed to area shelters.

Global Membership Team – PDG Brent Beracy, Chair

Membership remains the focus of the GMT District Chairs. For the current date membership stands at a -2 which is good, but Lion Beracy stressed we can do better. MD 11 overall has five negative and five positive districts at this time. December is typically a month when many of the rosters are "cleaned up" and non-paying members are dropped. As PID Gary Anderson put it: involved members do not drop out! It's important to make members feel welcome and involved.

Current Membership Numbers:

MD-11 total 9507
359 Drops
357 New Members

-2 Net growth
D-10 total 1345
45 drops
64 New Members
+1 Net growth

5 districts are net positive with 5 net negatives

Net Growth Leaders:

D1 +24
C2 +16
E2 +13

Membership retention has been identified as the metric most likely under our control. MD GMT is currently working to deliver results from membership engagement and retention brainstorming sessions before the year's end. GMT-D's and VDG's should be thanked for their time ideas. Planning to distribute to all Club Presidents, secretaries, and membership chairs and publish in the Lions Pride.

Area Leader Report – PDG David Wineman

The Global Membership Approach continues to focus on membership and goals. The last day to add or change goals is Dec. 31, 2022. Many PIDs have volunteered to work with districts that have dropped below the 1250 mark. Contact your PIDs or Area Leader for information on getting started.

There is a distinction between GMA process and GMA objectives. The process is an excellent team building and goal setting method. It includes Build a Team, Build a Vision, Build a Plan and Build a Success. This process can be used to achieve the GMA objectives AND other district committee (team) objectives. With the GMA objectives we have New Clubs, Revitalize Clubs, New Members and Leadership Training. The "process" includes written goals which should be utilized for ALL of our district committees and reported as Custom Goals by the incoming DGE.

The global membership process defines how to create goals and achieve them. We know that if goals are not written down, we have a failure rate of 80%. We have an 80% win if we do write them down. Service percentages have stagnated somewhat, but Michigan remains in the lead.

LCI has a computer changeover scheduled for March. Membership as of today is -2 for the year. Every Friday we email out leads to the MDs and now the DGs as well. These leads are people who have contacted LCI and expressed an interest in becoming a Lion.

Rather than continually hounding people to become a Lion, tell perspective Lions "YOUR" joy in being a Lion. From there give the perspective member a chance to enjoy Lions the same way you do!

There are plans for a December webinar to feature a Helen Keller presentation from her hometown in Alabama. PDG Wineman will send information once it is available.

MOTION: Glazier, Collins, to recess until 9:00 a.m. Saturday, December 3. Motion carried.

Meeting recessed at 8:45 p.m.

Saturday, December 3, 2022
3rd Council of Governors Meeting
Holiday Inn Downtown, Grand Rapids, Michigan

The Council of Governors was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Council Chair Ron Gibson. Those in attendance were Matt Collins, A1; Shawn Blaszczyk, A2; Kelly Lubbe, B1; Diane Wehby, C1; VCC Traci Tribley, C2; Jack Frost, D1; Shawn Wightman, D2; Jackie Glazier, E1; Rod Leathers, E2. **1st Vice District Governors** in attendance: Lula Gardfrey, A1; Kelley Unruh, A2; Annette Hemeryck, B1; Michael O'Lonergan, C1; Ted Hamilton, C2; Bill Bauder, D1; Jim Patterson, E1; Steve Murch, E2. **2nd Vice District Governors** in attendance: District 10, Scott Kwarciany; La Wonna Lofton-Coleman, A1; Jonathan VanTol, D1; Judy Keller, D2; Bob Roebuck, E1. **Also present:** IPID Justin Faber, PID Gary Anderson, PID Bill Hansen, PID Esther LaMothe, PID Jennifer Ware, Council Chair Ron Gibson, PCC Paul Hemeryck, PDG Dave Wineman, PDG Ray Robins, PDG Brent Beracy, IPDG Terri Huffman, IPDG Roshni Patel, Lion Ed Weessies, PDG Jack Patton, Lion Tom MacNaughton, PDG Don Spinks, PDG Bob Tetzlaff, PDG Dave and Lion Brenda Hacker and Executive Director Wendy Burns.

The meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Financial Report - PCC Paul Hemeryck, State Treasurer

Treasurer Hemeryck provided copies of his reports which he does every council meeting. It was noteworthy that he mentioned he does not charge a fee for his professional service – not even for copy paper. He does this as a service to Lions. All accounts show normal activity. A thorough review of the restricted, operating, and designated funds was given.

DG Wehby asked if excess funds in the Youth Exchange account could be transferred into the Lions All State Band account. They cannot be transferred into an account that is not Lions of Michigan, and the band is a separate 501(c) 3 business.

Lion Pride Publication is also a separate business. It has a surplus of \$121,163.00 in the account. Deferred dues in the amount of \$2.25 are collected two times per year and transferred into this account. Members pay a subscription of \$4.50/annually.

A breakdown of the dues structure and what accounts are restricted, designated and

operating were all discussed. Administration losses are due to the market and investment losses. Treasurer Hemeryck suggested it may be time to consider a dues increase.

IPDG Patel presented the updated Global Action Team budget for 2022-2023. This includes Global Leadership, Membership and Service team expenses for the year. Total amount requested: \$7,061. IPDG requested a motion to support the budget as presented.

MOTION: Mayuiers, Tribley, to approve the GAT budget as presented. Motion carried.

MOTION: Mayuiers, Collins, to receive the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

Lions Leadership Institute – PID Jenny Ware, Co-Chair

Due to the low number of registrants the Leadership Institute was cancelled. The addition of FDI – which is a certified course in training and program presentation – will be brought back in 2023. A cancellation fee of approximately \$3,500 was charged by the MacMullen Center.

The committee is already working on 2023's institute. It will be held November 3-5 at the MacMullen Center located in Higgins Lake. Planning will be ongoing, and the committee is working on branding, a new logo, advance promotions, and all other details necessary to create a successful event.

They have developed a Lions Leaders Institute Logo Contest to begin after January 1, 2023. A criterion for the logo has been established and must be postmarked by 2/28/23. The winner will receive one admission to the LI or a cash award if the winner is a Leo member.

Information Technology – PDG Ray Robins, Chair/PDG Bob Tetzlaff, Co-Chair

The IT committee is hoping to launch a training to encourage using a QR code for clubs wishing to collect dues, candy day sales, donations, etc. A sample QR card was handed out and instructions given on scanning with a phone and following the steps to see how it would work. Two codes could be used: One for collecting funds for the administration account, the other for donations. Excellent opportunity for Lions to do business.

District Editor's Report – PDG Bob Tetzlaff, Chair

District newsletters have been full of stories and content. Clubs are very active. PDG Tetzlaff has encouraged the editors to submit their Lion Pride content in a specific way to the state office for inclusion. Creating a word document with photos to match the stories, along with each photo in a jpeg format works the best. This helps to save time for the Pride Editor who must submit articles in this format to the graphic designer – otherwise the work falls on the editor and the task can become time consuming.

Governors are asked to submit any photos or stories of their club visits or service

projects for the Lion Pride to their District Editor or the state office who should in turn put it in the correct format and submit to the state office.

LCIF Report – PDG Harold Stephens

PDG Stephens reported on the success of Campaign 100 and stressed the need to continue to support LCIF through donations. As of 11/21/22, MD 11 has contributed \$47,695 of the \$242,000 goal for the year. An information sheet was provided which outlines the amount of grant money donated to each district going back multiple years. It is important to remember that LCIF gives back to our state grant money for a variety of purposes.

Lions Bear Lake Camp – PDG Jack Patton, Chair

DG Traci Tribley has accepted the position of Executive Director after serving as interim for the past several months.

Many organizations are returning to camp next year with several new ones booked or in the works. The Polar Plunge and Dinner is scheduled for February 18th at the camp, and will include a 50/50 raffle, gift basket raffle, costume contest, soup and hot chocolate bar and dessert bar. DG Tribley challenged the council to plunge with her on the 18th! It was also noted that LBLC uses a QR code on all their promotions to encourage payments/donations.

Lions of Michigan All State Band – Lion Tom MacNaughton, Chair

The new LMASB website has been completed and is now live. Face Book advertising and social media posting are being utilized to encourage registration of band students. The process has been slow, and they are struggling to attract new band members. The council was asked to help with promoting the band throughout their districts and talk with local band directors they may be in contact with through local schools. Letters will be going out to clubs with information on the 2023 trip to Boston and a request to help with promotions. The first rehearsal will take place in January 2023.

Reading Action Program – PDG Don Spinks, Chair

Books have been collected from the archives of PDG Spinks basement and will be donated at the Forum to any clubs wishing to distribute in their communities. PDG Spinks has teamed up with former R.A.P. chair PDG Bob Hohendorf to hold a booth at the MI Forum and promote Read Between the Lions and the R.A.P. He informed us that if a 3rd grader cannot read by the end of the year they are not promoted to 4th grade. Many times a student cannot read because their eyes cannot follow a pattern easily and Read Between the Lions can help correct this.

PDG Spinks wants to strengthen the R.A.P. throughout the state. Several districts are lacking a district chair and he asked the Governors to consider appointing someone to the committee. In its own district of 11 D2 the Marlette Lions Club purchased a book vending machine for one of the elementary schools. Teachers provide tokens as incentives to students which allow them to get a book on loan from the vending

machine. This is a great way to encourage reading!

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

Much excitement is being generated regarding the convention to be held in Muskegon. The committee chose “Together We Can ...Be Extraordinary!” as the theme. IPIP Douglas Alexander is confirmed as our guest speaker and IPIID Faber is assigned to host him throughout his stay. Our first sponsor has been secured: Muskegon Northside Lions Club with a \$550 sponsorship to cover the cost of renting the LST battle ship for the picnic. Ravenna Lions Club will provide an excellent meal for \$15.00.

The Friday night entertainment will be the “Lions Got Talent” show, and Lions will be asked to register their acts in advance. A DJ will be required to keep the flow going.

The parade, service project and other events such as the Awards Breakfast and Banquet are being planned out, as well. District 11 C1 is moving forward with their plan to hold the C1 convention during the Multiple District 11 event.

Another suggestion from the Hackers is to hold a group sing-along with all Lions and guests in attendance. IPDG Terri Huffman and PDG Hacker are working on words to the tune of the old Faygo song.

2024 proposals have been sent to Port Huron, Bay City, Kalamazoo and Traverse City. Any other suggestions on the city location are welcome. PIP Brian Stevenson is scheduled to be the LCI guest speaker.

Executive Director Report – Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director

Lion Chrissy Andre began working in the office November 7 and is doing an outstanding job. She has taken over updates to the website and put the mailing together for the Michigan Forum.

The service project for the Forum is shaping up to be a great event at Kid’s Food Basket. Mr. Dustin Dale is confirmed as the keynote speaker at the luncheon, and to date one White Cane Scholarship application has been received. Governors and Vice Governors were asked to sign up to help with the breakout sessions by introducing speakers or assisting as room monitors.

Planning for the MD 11 Convention continues. The parade application has been sent to the City of Muskegon for review and the picnic details have been confirmed. Sponsorship is an important part of the convention and provides extra funding. Governors were asked to consider sponsorship from their club. The Heart of a Lion sponsorship is just \$150.00.

February’s Council meeting will be held as follows: Double Tree Hotel Airport, Grand Rapids. Friday, February 24, VDG training from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Friday night Forum Service Project at Kid’s Food Basket, Grand Rapids, 7:00 p.m.; Saturday February 25, Lions Michigan Forum 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; 7:00 p.m. Council of

Governors meeting; Sunday, February 26 Council of Governors meeting, 9:00 a.m. At the meeting on Sunday the Governors will conduct the annual review of the State Treasurer and Executive Director.

Information on LCIcon Boston is on LCI's website. To reserve a hotel, you must register for the convention unless you plan to go through an alternate method. The assigned hotel for Michigan is ALOFT BOSTON SEAPORT DISTRICT or BOSTON MARRIOTT COPLEY PLACE with the headquarters located at the Omni Boston Hotel at Seaport. DGEs have been assigned to the RENAISSANCE BOSTON WATERFRONT or WESTIN BOSTON SEAPORT. An application has been sent to reserve a room for a Michigan Hospitality, and research is being conducted on a Michigan night event. Parade uniform and give away will be discussed with the committee.

New Business:

The lease between the Lions of MI Foundation and the Lions of Michigan needs to be renewed. The rent remains at \$500.00 and begins January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2026. If approved, the lease agreement shall be signed by Council Chair Ronald Gibson.

MOTION: Collins, Frost, to renew the lease agreement with the Lions of Michigan Foundation as presented. Motion carried.

Tail Twister Fines – DG Shawn Blaszczyk

It was agreed that fines collected both Friday and Saturday would be turned over to IPID Faber for donation to LCIF.

MOTION: Blaszczyk, Glazier, to donate fine money collected to LCIF with a matching fund provided by IPID Justin Faber. Motion unanimously carried.

Peace Poster: Winning poster voted on was from D2, created by Ellie Frances. A certificate and \$300 check will be sent to her from Lion Burns who will also mail the poster to LCI for consideration of this year's worldwide contest.

The open session of the Council of Governors concluded at 1:35 p.m. The Governors went into closed session to review and select the 2022-2023 award recipients of the S.A. Dodge and LCI awards.