

Council of Governors Meeting
Friday, May 17, 2024
Sheraton Airport Hotel, Grand Rapids, Michigan



The fifth and final meeting of the 2023-2024 Lions year was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Council Chair John Daoud. Those in attendance: **District Governors** Dan Perkins, D10; Lula Gardfrey, A1; Kelley Unruh, A2; Annette Hemeryck, B1; Amy Thackston, B2; Michael O'Lonergan, VCC C1; Bill Bauder, D1; Jim White, D2; Jim Patterson, E1; Steve Murch, E2. **1st Vice District Governors** in attendance: Scott Kwarcianny, D10; La Wonna Lofton-Coleman, A1; Rhonda Furby, A2; Louvenia Shack-Seals, B1; Cory Knuth, B2; Cheryl Anderson, C1; Jonathan VanTol, D1; Tom MacNaughton E1; Denny Gocha, E2. **2nd Vice District Governors** in attendance: Colleen Maki, District 10; Kim Hooper, A1; Mark Scicluna, A2; Bea Furman, B1; Jerry Whitney, D1; Dave Fisher, D2; VDG-Elect Linda Wellman, E1; Marie Leathers, E2. Others in attendance included LCI Guest, PIP Sid Scruggs, CC John Daoud, PIDs Esther LaMothe, Jenny Ware, Gary Anderson, Justin Faber; IPCC Ron Gibson, PCC Dave Hill, CCE-GST Terri Huffman, PCC Paul Hemeryck, State Treasurer, Lion Ed Weessies, Parliamentarian, PDG Ray Robins, IT, PDG Roshni Patel and Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director. **State Committee Chairs** in attendance: PDG Harold Stephens, PDG Dave & Lion Brenda Hacker, Lion Elvie Marfil, Lion Doug Klein, Lion Darlene Anderson.

The meeting opened with an invocation given by DG Murch and Pledge of Allegiance, followed by introductions of all in attendance and on Zoom.

MOTION: Hemeryck, O'Lonergan to approve the May 17, 2024, agenda. Motion carried.

MOTION: Gardfrey, Bauder, to approve the minutes of the February 2024 Council of Governors meeting. Motion carried.

MOTION: Unruh, Patterson, to approve written reports. Motion carried.

Global Service Team Report – CCE Terri Huffman, Chair

Highlights of the year included service projects to benefit Sleep in Heavenly Peace at the Michigan Forum. Approximately 125 fleece blankets were made and donated. Hope to Walk was a special project for Lions, being introduced as session participants at the Michigan Forum. Lions contributed \$12,000.00 to support the purchase of prosthetic leg kits. At the MD 11 Convention on Saturday Lions will assist in the packaging of 10,000 soup dinners to assist with Kid's Coalition Against Hunger programs. District 11 B2 won the King and Queen competition by raising the most funds for a service project. \$12,000.00 was raised for the purchase of artificial skylights to be placed in the chemotherapy room at Bronson Pediatric Cancer ward. Cub Zoey Thackston activated her passion for service and raised additional money by presenting Council Chair Daoud's lost bell and requested a finder's fee, of which he immediately opened his wallet to contribute to the cause.

Corsages and boutonnieres were created by CCE Huffman and Lions Sandy Pease and Shawne Lige to be sold during Prom night at the convention. \$325.00 was raised and will be donated to LCIF.

At the June 1 Melvin Jones Fellowship Celebration in Port Sanilac a Strides Walk will be held to raise money and awareness. CCE Huffman will oversee the details of the walk and encourage all to attend.

MOTION: Gardfrey, White, to accept the Global Service Team report. Motion carried.

Public Relations/Social Media Report – Lion Doug Klein, Chair

Lion Klein presented a segment on PR and Social Media at the recent Lions Michigan Forum. Good marketing and communication will raise the visibility of your club, your projects, and your service impact. Sharing club Facebook posts also helps to boost visibility. In upcoming programs in 2024-2025, we'll cover how to improve Lions Clubs' news media relations and individual Lions' communication skills for electronic media effectiveness.

Quarterly reports and messages are provided to the Council and the PR/Social Media committee by Chairperson Klein in an effort to help members to stay informed on the latest trends. A PR/Marketing Grant through LCI in the amount of \$15,000.00 has been approved by the Governors and will be applied for by Lion Klein by the July deadline. A 10% match will be required in the amount of \$1,500.00. The money could be spent on marketing for television, radio and print press in Michigan. New, stand-up banners have been purchased to help promote our expanded Global Causes and they include an imprinted QR code linking to the Lions of Michigan website. Council Chair Daoud strongly recommends districts apply for the District Marketing Grant also available through LCI.

Lion Klein reminded all to "look like a Lion in your community!"

MOTION: White, Gardfrey, to accept the PR/Social Media report. Motion carried.

Childhood Cancer Report – Lion Darlene Anderson, Chair

Three (3) Zoom meetings were held this year with the district chairs and one final meeting will be scheduled for the year. Fundraising ideas, what works and what doesn't, visiting hospitals or cancer centers within their districts, discussing needs of Hospital staff and families were all topics of discussion. District chairs are encouraged to visit their local hospitals and have conversations on ways in which Lions can be impactful. B2 did a fantastic job in raising funds for artificial lighting in the pediatric cancer ward of Bronson Hospital.

Fundraising is needed but so is serving. That is what is more important.

Lion Anderson is working on recruiting committee members and volunteers to assist with Camp Quality's siblings' weekend in August. Camp Quality serves the needs of children and families with cancer.

MOTION: Hemeryck, Bauder, to accept the Childhood Cancer report. Motion carried.

Lions Youth Exchange Report – Lion Elvie Marfil, Chair

Lion Marfil lives in the community of Portage, Michigan, hard hit by three tornadoes in one day. She thanked Lions who assisted with the process of filing for disaster grants which were quickly approved, and money received from LCIF and the Lions of Michigan Foundation.

Throughout the year Lion Marfil was very active, visiting many districts, attending fall conferences, club meetings and having display tables at district conventions to promote Lions Youth Exchange programs. One student has been sponsored by Paw Paw Lions Club and will be traveling to the Netherlands. Twenty students will be coming to Michigan and staying with host families, some of whom are hosting 2-3 foreign students.

A Lions Youth Exchange Camp will be held August 11-17 at Lions Bear Lake Camp. All Leo members are invited and encouraged to attend camp with us. Thank you to the districts who have made monetary contributions this year. Anyone donating \$100.00 or more receives a banner patch symbolizing Lions Youth Exchange.

There will not be a need for a large budget next year as many supplies were restocked this year.

MOTION: White, Gardfrey, to accept the Lions Youth Exchange report. Motion carried.

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

The convention committee has worked since September to plan this year's convention in Grand Rapids. Thursday night's kick-off picnic in Rockford was well attended by nearly 100 Lions and guests, and of course, special LCI guests PIP Sid and Lion Judy Scruggs. Sparta Lions Club did an excellent job on the food in partnership with the Rockford Lions Club. Attendees enjoyed downtown Rockford and the special discounts offered at the Rockford Shoe Store. Shuttle buses were provided by Muskegon Host Lions Club.

Today there will be three breakout sessions to attend and this evening's Welcome Party/Dinner featuring Lions Senior Prom. Our King and Queen contestants can still fundraise until 7:00 p.m. so look for their buckets and be generous with your donations.

Funding for the convention is always a struggle. PDG Hacker reviewed the 3-Digit Raffle that was discussed for consideration at the February meeting as a means to cut back on expenses to attendees or off-set other costs. Packets were provided to the Governors with a detailed outline of what is involved in holding a raffle. The District Governor Elects will be asked to vote on a raffle at their upcoming meeting.

A location for the 2025 convention has not yet been determined. A new proposal was just received from the Bay City Double Tree which has a minimal meeting space fee and a room rate of \$119.00/night. The committee has agreed that this will meet our needs, take the convention to another part of the state, and is located on the riverside in

Bay City's historic district. PDG Hacker asked for a motion to approve the Bay City Double Tree Hotel as the site of the 2025 convention.

MOTION: O'Lonegan, Thackston, to approve the Bay City Double Tree Hotel as the location to hold the MD 11 Lions Convention, May 15-17, 2025. Motion carried.

MOTION: Bauder, White, to approve the MD 11 Convention report. Motion carried.

Lions of Michigan All State Band Report – Lion Deb Davis, CEO

In just 31 days, 36 LMASB musicians will travel to the LCI Convention in Melbourne, Australia. They will attend their second rehearsal of the year tomorrow, Saturday, in the Grand Rapids area and will perform a short concert on Saturday evening during the cocktail reception.

They will meet up again at their final gathering for band camp in Cassopolis, prior to flying to Australia. A concert will be held on Sunday evening at the camp, located in southwestern Michigan, and all are invited to attend. They will then travel to Chicago on Monday to begin their journey. All the luggage and band instruments will be check in at the airport and loaded up to travel to Australia. Numerous stops throughout the trip have been planned for performances after their obligations at the International Convention have been fulfilled.

115 Lions Clubs in the state made donations this year, to which she is very grateful. Recruiting musicians will begin in August for the 2025 convention in Mexico City. Lion Davis and band director Lion Jason Russell will travel to Mexico City for a tour with Bob Rogers Travel representatives, enabling them to put an itinerary together and cost for next year's trip. VDG MacNaughton asked if brochures/promotions would be available to send to schools when students are back in school in August and was told that yes, that is the goal. Once the details of pricing and itinerary come back from Bob Rogers Travel, marketing materials can be printed.

Executive Director Burns will coordinate with Lion Davis pick up and transport the DGE banner for the DGE's to display when marching in the parade.

MOTION: O'Lonegan, Hemeryck to accept the Lions of Michigan All State Band report. Motion carried.

Liaison Committee Report – PID Justin Faber, Chair

The Liaison Committee met with International Director candidate PDG Dave Wineman to discuss with him a budget, following the guidelines set within the MD 11 Policy Manual:

Endorsed Candidates for International Director/International Vice President:

Endorsed candidates will incur their own expenses for all aspects of participating in Lions International Conventions with the understanding if he/she is seated on the International Board at said convention, the newly seated International Director or Vice President may submit evidence of expenses for reimbursement in accordance with the items outlined in the Policy Manual.

If a candidate is asked to step down for a year and return the next year, the only reimbursed expenses will be his/her campaign posters and brochures.

If a candidate is not successful in his/her bid during the term of his/her endorsement, no monies will be reimbursed with the exception of the brochures and campaign posters

A candidate's budget for campaign expenses shall include costs for stationery, printing, postage, campaign souvenirs, telephone calls, meals, lodging, and transportation. If a candidate is not successful in his/her bid during the term of his/her endorsement, no monies will be reimbursed with the exception of the brochures and campaign posters.

Transportation to and from the International Convention will be budgeted for the candidate, the candidate's spouse or companion, and the candidate's Campaign Manager.

PID Faber asked the council to approve the request for a budget of up to \$12,826.50.

MOTION: White, Patterson, to approve the Liaison budget as requested. Motion carried.

Lions of Michigan Foundation – PCC Dave Hill, President

Donor accounts can be set up through LMF if your club does not have a 501 (c)3 status. This way, donations can be made that are a tax write-off for the donors. The Vision Service Program through the Foundation is an excellent program that clubs can utilize when assisting people in need of eyeglasses. Project KidSight is one of the Foundation's most active programs, with clubs screening thousands of children this year. Hearing aid assistance is also available through our Lions of Michigan Foundation.

Ticket sales this year totaled 135,000 for the Hearing and Sweepstakes raffle – a new record. This year's drawing will take place Saturday morning after the Awards Breakfast.

MOTION: Gardfrey, Patterson, to accept the Lions of Michigan Foundation report. Motion carried.

Financial Report – PCC Paul Hemeryck, State Treasurer

Treasurer Hemeryck will present a complete financial report to the membership on Saturday, May 18, during the Business Session of the MD 11 Convention. A review of the report was provided, and copies made available to all.

We are in a deficit of approximately \$40,000.00 with two more months to go in the fiscal year. The entire financial growth depends on membership, and with a loss of members the council saw the need to raise dues in the amount of \$4.00 over the next two years. This will be voted on by the membership after the Business Session on Saturday.

Restricted, operating, and designated funds were reviewed and identified. Restricted funds are limited by constitution or donor requirements, such as the Liaison and Grace

Lange Fund. Designated Funds are project accounts, such as White Cane and Youth Exchange. Operating Funds are the state office, Council and Committee, International and MD Conventions.

Expenses for the Lion Pride continue to rise – printing, mailing, etc., - and the account is down \$15,000.00 but has a reserve of \$103,353.00.

MOTION: DG Hemeryck, DG Unruh to receive the financial report and place it on file. Motion carried.

LCIF Report – PDG Harold Stephens, Co-Chair

In the lead for the ongoing District contest is MD 11 D2. The Melvin Jones Fellowship Celebration will be held on May 31- June 1 in Port Sanilac and will feature LCI guests, IPIP Brian and Lion Lori Sheehan. There will be a Chairperson's Reception on Friday evening and a \$2,000.00 donation will admit two people. The goal is to have seventeen (17) sponsors at Friday's event. Saturday's event admission is \$100.00 with sixty-seven (67) currently registered.

There will be a Strides Walk on Saturday morning that GST Chair Huffman is overseeing. Thank you to District D2 for the donation of shirts for this event.

PID Jenny Ware is the LCIF coordinator for Constitutional Area 1 and reminded all to participate in the Tell-A-Thon on June 2. The goal of the event is to educate everyone on LCIF. The event is happening world-wide and will include subtitles in all thirteen (13) official languages.

MOTION: O'Lonergan, Perkins, to approve the LCIF report. Motion carried.

Past International President Sid Scruggs addressed the council and expressed appreciation for Michigan sending CCE Terri Huffman in advance of the convention to North Carolina's convention to "pre-screen" him. He enjoys getting to know our Michigan Lions and appreciates the hard work of the committee.

PIP Scruggs touched on some of the issues that will be discussed at the LCI Convention this year such as consolidating clubs, VDG candidate qualifications, GAT responsibilities. He encouraged DGEs to appoint a Global Extension Team member to work with the GAT in the coming year. Focus on starting new clubs, accept the 1.5 Challenge, and always carry an application with you. PIP Scruggs will happily install any prospective Lions while here over the weekend. Always be ready to sell why a person should join Lions and what is expected of them as a club member.

USA membership is down when most other countries are increasing membership – the US used to have 50% of the membership and now only hold 19%. We are also #6 when it comes to donations. Speak from the heart and talk about the service we do.

Mission 1.5 Contest – Council Chair John Daoud

Council Chair Daoud reviewed the contest rules using a point system.
to calculate overall winnings, with points being awarded for the following:

New Member = 1 point
New Club = 5 points
New Leo or Branch Club = 3 points

District D2 currently has paperwork ready to be sent to LCI for two (2) branch clubs. District 10 has one (1) new club. At the February meeting DG Hemeryck stated that she has seventeen (17) new members which she recruited. No one topped that amount and DG Hemeryck was declared the contest winner. Council Chair Daoud presented her with a Lions logo watch in recognition of her achievements.

Vice Council Chair O'Lonergan announced that at the C1 District Convention in May a 2nd VDG was nominated. Lion Earl Howell will take on this role in the 2024-2025 Lions year.

Council Chair Daoud expressed his gratitude for allowing him to serve with the best council ever, this year!

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Executive Director Wendy Burns