

# **Lions International**

## **Multiple District 11**

**(Lower Michigan)**



**4th Council of Governors Meeting  
Holiday Inn Gateway Centre  
Flint, Michigan  
February 23-24, 2019**

**4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Governors**  
**Saturday, February 23, 2019**  
**Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, Flint, MI**

The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the 2018-2019 Council of Governors was called to order at 7:00 pm by Council Chair Barry Allen. Governors in attendance were: DG Jack Patton, A2; DG Roger Spriggs, B1; DG Fran Grabowski, B2; DG Greg Wehby, C1; Mike Golden, C2; DG Joe Bogar, D1; DG Jack Kriete, D2; DG Al Roeseler, E1; DG Gordon Harris, E2;. 1st Vice District Governors in attendance were: VDG Bruce LaBelle, SD 10; VDG Scott Barry, A2; VDG Michael Scott, Jr., B1; VDG John Postelli, B2; DG Paul Hodge, C1; Becky Hamilton, C2; VDG Steven VanTol, D1; VDG Don Spinks, D2; VDG Jackie Glazier, E1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governors in attendance were: VDG David Wilbert, A1; VDG Leo Schaefer, 11 A2; VDG Julie Mayuiers, 11 B2; Robert Hohendorf, C1; Kurt Stromlund, C2; Harold DeMott, D1; Sami Makhoul, D2; Bill Koch, E1. Also in attendance: Council Chair Barry Allen, State Treasurer PCC Paul Hemeryck, PDG Jeff Mayuiers, GLT Chair; Lion Lula Gardfrey, GMT Chair; PCC Justin Faber, GST Chair; IPCC Peggy Allen; CCE Jeff Hunt, PDG Ronnie Martin, PID Jerome Thompson and Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director.

The meeting opened with the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held in memory of DG Gordon Harris's wife, Veda, who passed away in December, and 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Norris Turner, who passed away February 13.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Request to add Policy Manual update to the agenda; request to add Leo request to the agenda.

**MOTION**: Kriete, Bogar, to approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried.

**MOTION**: Kriete, Bogar, to approve the minutes of the December 2018 Council of Governors meeting. Motion carried.

**Defense against Diabetes Grant Update –Lions Bill Bradfield and Roger Blackwell**

The D.A.D. grant was approved by LCI at their recent board meeting. Of the 1 million dollars awarded in grant money, Michigan was allotted \$250,000.00, or one quarter of the funds. Only eleven districts worldwide were approved for a grant, with Michigan being the only Multiple District.

Lion Bill Bradfield has been appointed by LCIF as Project Chairperson; Council Chair Barry Allen as Project Administrator. Lion Bill and CC Allen, along with State Sight Conservation/Diabetes Chair Lion Roger Blackwell will remain on the committee through completion of the project. LCIF encourages all District Governors to remain on the committee.

Money awarded from this 12-month grant will be utilized for diabetes prevention, treatment and education and will benefit those in need throughout the state of Michigan. Lions Clubs will partner/consult with the American Kidney Foundation, MSU Extension

Diabetes nutritional training, American Diabetes Association, local hospitals and service agencies to provide free services effective May of 2019. Clubs will have until July 1 to submit 25% of the matching grant, \$5,682.00, to the state office. Each District will receive their portion of the grant, which totals \$22,726.00. Congratulations to the committee for their hard work and dedication to this project.

### **New Club Development –PDG Ronnie Martin, LCI Consultant**

PDG Ronnie Martin provided the Keynote Address at the MI Forum earlier in the day. He reinforced with the Council the need to update the way Lions do business. For example, make collection of club dues easier by purchasing a Square for instant credit or debit card processing. Younger members especially would be apt to pay on-site for services that offer credit card capabilities. Dues, conferences, merchandise, etc.

New Club consultant services are provided to you free of charge. LCI pays for PDG Ronnie to work with your district. He is extremely successful in starting new clubs. Michigan is close to ending the year with a plus 1 and PDG Ronnie is here to help us succeed. Contact him for input or hands-on assistance at any stage of the new club development process.

### **International Convention Report –PDG Bill Simpson, Chair**

Michigan Night will be held Sunday, July 7 at a banquet room in Hotel Garibaldi where we will enjoy a 4-course Italian dinner. The cost will be \$62.44/person, and PDG Bill proposed a discount to Lions at \$50/person, as we have done in the past. If there are 35 people in attendance, the expense to the IC account would be \$443.10.

The International Parade steps off on Saturday, July 6. Michigan has not been assigned a step-off time as of yet. The assembly is Corso Venezia. District IC committee members will have this information for you as soon as it becomes available. Mini American flags will again be handed out, and the parade dress is the red Michigan shirt, navy slacks or skirt, black shoes. July is one of the hottest months in Italy – stay hydrated! Signs will designate where to assembly for the parade.

Our candidate for International Director will need our support at both the Nomination business session on Saturday, July 6 and during the Midwest Breakfast. The breakfast will be held Monday, July 8 in the Melia Milano Hotel, 6:45 a.m. Cost is \$60 and checks can be sent to the state office to guarantee reservations.

**MOTION:** Kobasic/Patton to approve the 2019 International Convention budget as presented by PDG Bill Simpson. Motion carried.

### **LCI Updates/Convention Protocol –IPID Jenny Ware**

IPID Jenny presented IPCC Peggy Allen with her Friendship Banner, thanking her for her service to the state as Council Chair, 2017-18.

An update on candidates for LCI 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, 2019-2020 was given. PID Dr. Patti Hill is the endorsed candidate by the LCI board of directors. IPID Jenny encouraged those

attending the International Parade to wear a campaign shirt in support of PID Dr. Patti Hill.

IPID Jenny was asked to be a group leader for District Governor Elect training. Training in Milan will begin on Friday, July 5. This is the final training session before your year as Governor begins. While at the International Convention, Governors are asked to meet with as many ID candidates as possible and make a decision as soon as possible as to who you would like your speaker to be at your 2019-2020 Convention. As IPID, it is Lion Jenny's job to assist in securing your speaker. It is expected that PCC Justin Faber will be elected in Milan, and it will become his responsibility to secure future convention speakers.

IPID Jenny sits on the North American Membership Initiative, NAMI, to reinforce membership. This is a program which will roll out across North America. Lion Jenny believes in the New Club Consultant focus to rejuvenate your district by growing your membership. Make sure you have Lions in place to complete your Global Action Team during your year as Governor.

#### **Global Leadership Team –PDG Jeff Mayuiers**

Friday, February 21 completed the training for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> VDGs for the year. There is not a scheduled training at the May Council meeting, held in conjunction with the convention.

District Governor Reimbursement Forms will be covered so that all incoming DGs are aware of how to process their expenses for reimbursement, what is covered, etc.

District GATs need to be certain to request funds available to them for the year. \$7,250.00 is available from LCI to help fund your work within the district. It's an easy application process and PDG Jeff can assist if needed.

Governors from C1 and D2 have completed their GAT team and submitted reports and are 100% on target.

Districts across the state that have completed reports to LCI show we have trained 210 Club officers; 24 Zone chairs and 42 Guiding Lions. We know that more have been trained, but not reported. It is important to stay on top of updating reports in every district.

#### **Global Membership Team –Lion Lula Gardfrey**

Lion Lula is striving to cast a positive message on membership. One small change is to use the words "member satisfaction" to replace "retention." With this in mind Lion Lula created a Member Questionnaire that can be used to evaluate the quality of a Lions Club. Questions such as the members objective with the club, how they fit within the club vision, why they became a Lion are just a few of the questions asked. This may prove a valuable tool for each Club President to utilize in identifying what members care about and what they have concerns about. Completed surveys could be reviewed and

discussed with the GMT for feedback. Lion Lula's plan is to provide the survey to Club Presidents for use.

It was reported that District 11 B2 showed positive growth for the period.

**MD 11 Policy Manual:**

**MOTION:** Bogar, Kriete, to allow discussion to change the MD 11 Policy manual.

Discussion: Two weeks' notice is needed or a 2/3 majority vote in support of the motion. DG Joe Bogar explained this would allow the 1<sup>st</sup> VDGs to make policy changes before July 1.

VCC Fran Grabowski called for a roll call vote.

District A1, Kelly – abstained (absent)  
District A2, Patton – yes  
District B1, Bogar –yes  
District B2, Grabowski –nay  
District C1, Wehby –yes  
District C1, Golden –yes  
District D1, Bogar –yes  
District D2, Kriete –yes  
District E1, Roeseler –yes  
District E2, Harris –abstained (absent)

Motion carried, 7 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstained.

VCC Grabowski, as Co-Chair of the Policy Manual review team felt he should have been informed of the agenda item in advance of the meeting and made part of the discussion as a professional courtesy.

**MOTION:** Bogar; Kriete, motion to change the parade uniform to allow District Governor-Elects to wear a PID Dr. Patti Hill shirt.

Discussion: Seated DGs make the decision on what to wear as parade uniform. Current 1<sup>st</sup> VDGs will become DGEs by the parade date and may want to make their own choice on what to wear. DG Bogar stated only 2 seated DGs would be in attendance at the parade. It was pointed out that there is a list of 35 Michigan Lions attending who may well be marching in the parade and will need direction on what uniform to wear. The past two years, DGEs chose to wear their cabinet shirts, not the parade shirt, in the parade.

Amendment to the motion: Seated Governors be allowed to wear a Patti Hill shirt in lieu of the mandatory parade shirt.

Motion to end debate: 4 in favor. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Seated Governors be allowed to wear a Patti Hill shirt in lieu of the mandatory parade shirt. By a show of hands three voted in favor; three against. Council Chair vote: Against. Motion failed.

**MD 11 Policy Manual -1<sup>st</sup> VDG Steven VanTol**

VDG VanTol explained that in order for the 2019-20 Governors to ensure they are prepared to begin their year upon return from the LCI Convention, they would like a motion to review, edit and make necessary changes to the MD 11 Policy Manual in advance of their July 1 start date. If possible, the 1<sup>st</sup> VDGs would like to elect their officers prior to the May 17 DG-E training held during the MD Convention.

**MOTION:** Bogar, Wehby, to approve the request by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governors to edit and make necessary changes to the existing MD 11 Policy Manual.

Discussion over the motion was held. Council Chair-Elect Jeff Hunt stated that he had encouraged the 1<sup>st</sup> VDGs to begin planning for their year now, starting with the Policy Manual review. The current process is to review the PM at the 1<sup>st</sup> Council of Governors meeting and suggest edits/changes to a committee. The committee presents the edits/changes at the October meeting. If further discussion or edits are made at that time, it could be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting by the time a changes been approved.

Council Chair Barry Allen called for the vote by a show of hands. Four (4) Governors approved; Four (4) Governors opposed. CC Allen voted nay to break the tie. Motion failed.

**LEO Report –VDG Steven VanTol**

Lion Amy Anderson had planned a Leo Day event for the Michigan Forum, but due to lack of participation it was cancelled. An “escape room” event was planned as part of the activities to take place, and Lion Amy would like to entertain the idea of having an escape room as part of the MD 11 Lions Convention in Auburn Hills. Lions would pay a \$10 fee to participate in the escape room and money collected would be used for a fall Leo conference. Lion Wendy will check with the hotel on available space for this event.

**Global Service Team –PCC Justin Faber**

The service project for the Forum on Friday night benefited Project: KidSight and consisted of packaging activity bags for children participating in KidSight screenings. 40,000 items were collected from each district and brought to the Forum for packaging. 2,250 bags were assembled by over 100 Lions taking part in this activity. PCC Faber thanked all for working together on making this a coordinated, successful effort.

Plans are still being formulated for the group service project in conjunction with the MD 11 Convention. The event will take place at Leader Dog following the picnic, May 16.

Meeting recessed at 8:35 p.m.

**4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Governors**  
**Sunday, February 24, 2019**  
**Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, Flint, MI**

The meeting of the Council of Governors was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Council Chair Barry Allen. Governors in attendance were: DG Jack Patton, A2; DG Roger Spriggs, B1; DG Fran Grabowski, B2; DG Greg Wehby, C1; Mike Golden, C2; DG Joe Bogar, D1; DG Jack Kriete, D2. 1st Vice District Governors in attendance were: VDG Bruce LaBelle, SD 10; VDG Scott Barry, A2; VDG Michael Scott, Jr., B1; VDG John Postelli, B2; DG Paul Hodge, C1; Becky Hamilton, C2; VDG Steven VanTol, D1; VDG Don Spinks, D2; VDG Jackie Glazier, E1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governors in attendance were: VDG David Wilbert, A1; VDG Leo Schaefer, 11 A2; VDG Julie Mayuiers, 11 B2; Robert Hohendorf, C1; Kurt Stromlund, C2; Harold DeMott, D1; Sami Makhoul, D2. Also in attendance: Council Chair Barry Allen, State Treasurer PCC Paul Hemeryck, PDG Jeff Mayuiers, GLT Chair; Lion Lula Gardfrey, GMT Chair; PCC Justin Faber, GST Chair; IPCC Peggy Allen; CCE Jeff Hunt, PDG Ronnie Martin, PID Jerome Thompson and Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director.

The meeting began with the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**Written Reports:**

Written reports were submitted by the All State Band Committee, Leader Dogs for the Blind, Lions Quest, Youth Exchange Committee, and LCIF Campaign 100.

**MOTION:** Grabowski, Kriete, to receive the written reports as submitted. Motion carried.

**Financial Report –PCC Paul Hemeryck, Treasurer**

All accounts are operating within the budgets that were approved by the Council. Interest earnings help to offset deficits; \$21,000.00 of our investment account was lost in due to a huge hit in December, but earnings have since recovered nearly all that was lost, and Treasurer Hemeryck plans to make a market value adjustment to the account.

Treasurer Hemeryck explained the difference between designated, restricted and unrestricted accounts. Grace Lang is a restricted account to be used for Scholarships. \$9,000.00 was just awarded to three (3) Scholarship recipients, and funds will be distributed as soon as the students provide necessary documentation to release funds.

Dues income continues to decline as membership declines. A serious discussion regarding membership and/or the need to increase dues is recommended.

**MOTION:** Kriete, Patton to receive the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**MD 11 Convention –PDG Bob Sturgis**

Plans for the upcoming convention are going well. Leader Dog will host the picnic on Thursday evening. Roundtrip bus transportation from the hotel to Leader Dog will be available at \$5.00/person. 3 VP Brian Sheehan and Lion Lori Sheehan are our guest

speakers and will be hosted by PID Gary & Cheryl Anderson. VP Sheehan will attend the picnic and lead the breakout session Saturday on LCIF Campaign 100 along with Chair PDG Connie Shelton and members of the committee.

The best hotel proposal received for the 2020 Convention came from the Holland DoubleTree Hotel. Room rate is \$89/person. PDG Sturgis asked for a motion to approve the DoubleTree, if that is the wish of the Council.

**MOTION:** Bogar, Kriete, to hold the 2020 MD 11 Lions Convention at the Holland, MI, DoubleTree Hotel. Motion carried.

An in-depth discussion was held during the recent MD Convention committee meeting regarding holding District Conventions in conjunction with the MD 11 Convention. This has been brought up to the Council of Governors numerous times, and is how it used to be 25+ years ago until Districts became so large they broke off to hold their own convention. Now, with declining attendance, it would make sense to combine efforts and hold one convention. The result would be a larger MD 11 Convention, negotiating power when working with hotels by offering a large-sized group and less expense to the District. PDG Sturgis has had discussion will several PIDs whom all are in favor of this.

Concern was raised regarding Districts that may already have signed contracts for conventions in 2020 or 2021. The transition may take 2-3 years, with one or two Districts testing the merger. Those who were members 20-30 years ago recall the combined MD 11 Convention and stated that it worked well. Governors were asked to discuss this at upcoming District Conventions for feedback.

**MOTION:** Patton, Grabowski, to talk with District Convention Chairpersons/Committee members and review discussion results at the May Council of Governors meeting.

Discussion: Lion Ed Weessies suggested the Strategic Planning Committee be tasked with researching the options.

Motion carried.

### **MD 11 Rules of the Convention**

Convention rules are reviewed and updated annually by the Constitution and By Laws committee members. The committee approved the 2019 MD 11 Convention Rules and a motion to approve was requested.

**MOTION:** Grabowski, Kriete, to approve the 2019 MD 11 Rules of the Convention. Motion carried.

### **Executive Director's Report –Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director**

Each Governor was presented with a packet containing a flag to represent their LCI speaker; officer crests for incoming DG, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> DG; name badges. 2019 state pins were available to any who wanted to take a package of 25 “on commission” to sell.

Convention registration packets were supplied to all. Registration is now open and Governors are reminded they do not pay a fee to attend and their spouse/guest is also complimentary. Hotel fees and mileage are submitted after the convention, and refunds of up to \$75/night will be made and .50/mile.

**Dial it Up Campaign –PID Jerome Thompson  
LCI GM Leader, Constitutional Area 1**

PID Thompson reported on the progress made in membership. With new management, new mindset and new players on our leadership team, we can break the “negative membership curse.” Constitutional Area 1 is currently a +300. Membership growth is improving each year, and if Michigan sets a goal to grow by +20, we will end the year with positive growth. The United States has 311,000 Lion members. It has been 35 years since we’ve seen positive growth.

Families, women, retention, PR – this is a constant discussion thread. Lions need to change and do some things different to make growth happen. Michigan is one of the largest MDs in the United States! All were asked to step it up and end the year on the positive side of membership.

Tail Twister fines were collected, with a suggestion that money collected be donated to a 12-year old girl in Ubly who is battling cancer. The Ubly Club will be holding a fundraiser to assist with financial needs the family is facing.

**MOTION:** Kriete, Bogar, to donate Tail Twister money to the Ubly Lions Club fundraising efforts. Motion carried.

The meeting went into closed session for the Governors to conduct State Treasurer and Executive Director evaluations, as well as to vote for Leo of the Year. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> VDGs were invited to attend. All others were excused from the meeting.

**Leo of the Year:**

Districts 11 B1 and 11 B2 reviewed their nominations for Leo of the Year, after which a vote took place and the Council voted in favor of Leo Lilly Diuble, 11 B1, as the 2018-2019 Leo of the Year.

Lion Wendy will mail the nomination form to LCI in advance of the April 1 deadline. DG Roger Spriggs will notify Leo Lilly and invite her to attend the MD 11 Convention to be recognized and awarded a plaque.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director