

**Lions Clubs of Michigan  
2nd Council of Governors Meeting  
October 6-7, 2023  
Treetops Resort, Gaylord, MI**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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; VCC Michael O'Lonegan, C1; Ted Hamilton, C2; Bill Bauder, D1; Jim White, D2; Jim Patterson, E1; Steve Murch, E2. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governors in attendance: Scott Kwarcianny, D10; La Wanna Lofton-Coleman, A1; Rhonda Furby, A2, Louvenia Shack-Seals, B1; Cory Knuth, B2; Carl Cozart, C2; Jonathan VanTol, D1; Ken Hisey, E1; Denny Gocha, E2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governors in attendance: Mark Scicluna, A2; Bea Furman, B1; Jerry Whitney, D1; Marie Leathers, E2; Colleen Maki, District 10. Others in attendance included PID Jenny Ware, PCC Paul Hemeryck, State Treasurer, Lion Ed Weessies, Parliamentarian, PDG Ray Robins, IT and Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director.

The meeting opened with an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, followed by introductions around the room and members on Zoom.

**MOTION:** O'Lonegan, Hamilton, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Patterson, Unruh, to receive and place on file the minutes of August 2023 Council of Governors meeting. Motion carried.

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

Council Chair Doud opened the meeting with a discussion on the USA/Canada Forum held in Reno this past September. Those who attended and participated in a variety of the 88 sessions offered felt the presentations were informative and the presenters knowledgeable.

**Leadership Institute – PID Jenny Ware, Chair**

Registrations have been received for both the Faculty Development Institute and the Leadership Institute. The last FDI held in Michigan was in 2007 and the committee is pleased to once again offer this. PDG Jamma Wahl and Jodi Burmeister will be leading courses in FDI. Fees for the Leadership Institute are \$250.00/person and FDI is \$350/person.

PID Ware reminded the Governors that if their district makes a \$300.00 donation to the Leadership program, they are allowed to send one person from their district to attend, free of charge. This only applies to the Leadership program. The grant application has been submitted to LCI to assist with funding for this year's FDI program and PID Ware is awaiting approval.

**MOTION:** Unruh, Patterson, to accept the Leadership Institute report as presented. Motion carried.

**Lions of Michigan All State Band – Lion Deb Davis, CEO, Lion Tom MacNaughton, State Chair**

Planning has begun for the 2024 band trip to Australia. CEO Davis has received bids from two tour groups who can handle the travel details. The cost of the trip has not been locked in as proposals are still being received. Lion Davis is researching youth camps that are closest to the Chicago area, as that is the airport that everyone will depart from. Band Director Lion Jason Russell, Lion Davis, and Lion MacNaughton will attend the Band and Orchestra trade show to promote the trip to Michigan band directors.

The trip will encompass eight days and seven nights with an overnight scheduled in LA to break up the long flight time. Band camp will begin on June 29 prior to leaving for Melbourne. Tours and performances are planned throughout the duration of the trip. Estimated cost per student at this time is \$6,300.00.

Recruiting band members is ongoing. Lion MacNaughton travels around the state for Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and promotes to the students he interviews. Regular social media promotions are made and receive interest. Former participants will not need to tryout again, and prospective members can send in music or Zoom in for their audition.

**MOTION:** O'Lonergan, Bauder, to receive the LMASB report as presented. Motion carried.

**Global Service Team – PDG Terri Huffman, Chair**

District's C2 and D2 have taken the lead in service reporting with 43% reporting service to LCI. Service reporting takes teamwork and communication, and Governors were asked to encourage their clubs to step up their reports to MyLion. PDG Huffman is willing to assist with service reporting training to those in need, along with the District Administrator's. She hopes to report back in December that MD 11 has an increased their service reporting.

PDG Huffman has held regular meetings with the District GST, and they have approved three (3) statewide service projects for the year. The blanket project will be held during the Lion Michigan Forum and will benefit "Sleep in Heavenly Peace." 10,000 meal kits will be packaged up by those attending the MD 11 Lion Convention in May as the focus of the large group service project and will be donated to Kid's Coalition Against Hunger. The third and final project for the year will benefit Hope to Walk. This nonprofit organization provides inexpensive prosthetic legs to children and adults in underserved countries. One prosthetic leg can cost thousands of dollars, but Hope to Walk has developed a prosthetic leg, packaged in a kit, that costs just \$250.00 which they train providers to build and attach.

While at the LCI Convention in Boston PDG Huffman met with Hope to Walk representatives and was eager to bring this project to Michigan. A video of their program was shared, and she asked the Governors to consider sponsoring one prosthetic kit from their district by the end of their year as Governor and noted that District 11 B1 has made a \$1,000.00 contribution. DG Hamilton committed to a \$250.00 donation from C2.

**MOTION:** Patterson, O'Lonegan, to accept the GST report. Motion carried.

#### **Lions Clubs International – PID Justin Faber**

PID Faber oversaw the seminars team at the recent USA/Canada Forum where there were over 100 seminars offered. The 2024 event will take place in Louisville, KY, next September. Registration has begun and all were encouraged to register early. Due to a lack of easy access to a walking path, there will not be a Strides Walk.

PID Manoj Shaw acknowledges MD 11's endorsement of him for LCI 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President and expressed his gratitude.

LCI awards will be voted on at the December Council of Governors meeting. Governors will be sent President Hill's criteria and guidelines for this year's nominees. For now, DGs can look up IPIP Sheehan's criteria from last year as a reference guide and all should be thinking of deserving Lions in their districts for the Presidential Leadership and Presidential Medal awards, as well as the MD 11 S.A. Dodge award. The deadline to submit awards to Executive Director Wendy Burns is November 20.

**MOTION:** Bauder, Thackston, to accept the LCI report. Motion carried.

#### **Lions of Michigan Foundation – PCC Dave Hill, President**

In 1984 the Lions of Michigan Foundation began its service to Michigan. PCC Hill went onto discuss the Foundation's many projects, such as the Sight & Hearing Sweepstakes, Project KidSight vision screenings, VSP Global Eyes of Hope vision vouchers and more.

**MOTION:** White, O'Lonegan, to accept the Lions of Michigan Foundation report. Motion carried.

Substitute Tail Twister DG Kelley Unruh worked the room, collecting fines from all.

**MOTION:** Thackston, O'Lonegan, to recess until 9:00 a.m. Saturday. Motion carried.

### **Saturday, October 7, 2023 2nd Council of Governors Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Council Chair John Daoud. Those in attendance: District Governors Lula Gardfrey, A1; Kelley Unruh, A2; Annette Hemeryck, B1; Amy Thackston, B2; VCC Michael O'Lonegan, C1; Ted Hamilton, C2; Bill Bauder,

D1; Jim White, D2; Jim Patterson, E1; Steve Murch, E2. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governors in attendance: Scott Kwarciany, D10; La Wonna Lofton-Coleman, A1; Rhonda Furby, A2, Louvenia Shack-Seals, B1; Cory Knuth, B2; Carl Cozart, C2; Jonathan VanTol, D1; Ken Hisey, E1; Denny Gocha, E2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governors in attendance: Mark Scicluna, A2; Bea Furman, B1; Jerry Whitney, D1; Marie Leathers, E2; Colleen Maki, District 10. Others in attendance included PID Justin Faber, PCC Paul Hemeryck, State Treasurer, Lion Ed Weessies, Parliamentarian, PDG Ray Robins, IT and Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director.

### **Global Membership Team – IPDG Shawn Blaszczyk, Chair**

A meeting was recently held with District GMTs where they discussed Mission 1.5, LCI latest drive to increase membership by July 2027, and how they could work to help assist in the goal. Retention is of critical importance to maintaining our current membership numbers in the state. Orientations also need to be a regular part of training as membership is our future!

The GMT committee is working on introducing a new member booklet at the Michigan Forum which can be customized to individual clubs. It will also be available as a PowerPoint presentation, customizable by editing the slides. Each district will be asked to host a district-wide orientation in April 2024, and bring new members in during Worldwide Induction Day in May 2024. Meetings will be held via Zoom and invitations will be sent out for the Orientation meetings.

There will be friendly competition between the clubs and districts while working to increase new membership and retention. It will end April 30, 2024, and will be retroactive to July 1, 2023. Awards and recognition will be announced in May at the MD 11 Convention. Categories to be awarded:

- Club with highest percentage increase in membership

- District with highest percentage increase in membership

- Club or District with newest, creative, or unique project/event aimed at recruiting new members.

Currently, MD 11 stands at a +17 for the year, but there was a loss of 158 members through October 1. The district introduced 250 new members but lost 400. We now stand at a membership of 8,929. December membership drops are common in December as clubs close out the first six months of the year. Talk to your membership and keep them active. District 11 D2 is currently in the lead for membership with A2 a close second. District 10 is doing very well with +20 and 1,300 members to date.

**MOTION:** Hemeryck, O'Lonergan, to accept the Global Membership Team report. Motion carried.

### **Human Resource Update – DG Michael O'Lonergan**

The review committee is working to update the evaluation forms for the Executive Director position and the overall review process. They will share their suggestions at the December Council of Governors meeting.

**MOTION:** Unruh, Bauder, to accept the Human Resource report. Motion carried.

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

The statement of revenue, expenses and fund balances was reviewed by Treasurer Hemeryck who reported there was nothing unusual about the accounts which reflect normal losses and account balances for the period. The Lion Pride account has a slight increase in funds for the current period. A question was raised about the “DG Project Fund” and it was explained that this account was created for the seated DGs, allowing up to an annual withdrawal of \$5,000.00 for specialty projects.

The International Convention fund shows a loss because money spent in fiscal year 2022-2023 for the convention had expenses that were applied after July 1, which starts the new Lion year. It will balance out as the year progresses.

Concern over the finances of the state office continues. Dues must be raised to make up for the loss of revenue, which can be blamed on the loss of members. Treasurer Hemeryck explained that just like LCI, the Lions of Michigan operating costs continue to increase, and we end up dipping into savings and investment accounts. That can't go on for much longer. Council Chair Daoud stated the committee to review a dues increase will be reporting on their findings during the meeting this weekend.

Discussion on the Lion Pride was held, and ways to increase advertising were discussed. DG Jim White offered to research this and encouraged others to assist in the effort.

**MOTION:** O'Lonergan, Murch, to support a committee made up of DGs Murch, White, Unruh, and Executive Director Burns to review the advertising operations and other aspects of the Lion Pride. Motion carried.

### **Childhood Cancer Report – Executive Wendy Burns**

State Chair Lion Darlene Anderson reported she held a Zoom meeting with the Childhood Cancer Committee in early September with a follow up meeting to take place in December. Goals for the year were shared and approved by the committee. They held a brainstorming session and came up with fundraising ideas and service projects. 11D1 Cabinet treasurer Sandy VanTol and Lion Anderson attended Maggie's Wigs 4 Kids on September 15th. What a magical evening with Lions Club International being named a rising star. A check from District D1 presented a check that night. Lion Anderson will be meeting with two partner organizations, Camp Quality and Kids Kicking Cancer. She has invited committee members to attend with her and learn more about these important groups.

### **Michigan Forum Report - Executive Wendy Burns**

The 2024 Lions Michigan Forum will be held at the Gateway Convention and Conference Center, Grand Blanc, February 23-24, 2024. The committee has met to discuss session topics and speakers and will come up with a total of sixteen (16) breakout sessions for attendees to choose from. VDG Carl Webster, Tennessee, will

give the Keynote Address, titled *An Autopsy of a Lions Club*. Lion Webster's presentation was well received at the recent USA/Canada Forum and the committee is excited to have him as our guest.

The service project Friday night will be a blanket project where attendees can put together fleece blankets to be donated to Sleep in Heavenly Peace. GST Chair PDG Terri Huffman and the committee will oversee the project. Blanket kits will be purchased in advance and brought to the event, eliminating the need for districts to do so.

Governors and Vice Governors will be provided with a sign-up sheet to assist with the breakout sessions. Duties include introduction of speakers, room monitors, help with a.v. equipment, etc. The sign-up sheet will be available at the December Council of Governors meeting.

### **Information Technology – PDG Ray Robins, Chair**

PDG Robins asked the council to consider his budget request for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. For the equipment and services budget, it would be reduced from the previous year's amount of \$1,500.00 to the amount of \$1,000.00. For the attend and support budget the request is to increase from the previous \$1,000.00 to the amount of \$1,500.00.

Total budget request: \$2,500.00.

The council expressed appreciation for the work PDG Robins has provided in making sure meetings are available via Zoom for the council, clubs, committees, etc.

**MOTION:** Thackston, Hemeryck, to accept the budget request as presented. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Global Action Team 2023-2024 Budget request: \$6,000.00.

**MOTION:** O'Lonergan, White, to accept the budget request. Motion amended to a request of \$6,450.00. Motion carried.

**Lions Youth Exchange Budget:** The account has a balance of \$32,000.00 from past years. Budget requested for the 2023-2024 fiscal year: \$8,900.00.

**MOTION:** Thackston, Hemeryck, to approve the budget as presented in the amount of \$8,900.00. Motion carried.

**Council Chair Daoud: Mission 1.5.**, LCI's new membership initiative to increase membership to 1.5 million by July 2027. At the recent USA/Canada Forum CC Daoud attended the Mission 1.5 session. He proposed a challenge to the DGs to increase membership in their district through a friendly competition, complete with a Lions watch as an award to the winner.

LCI will send a New Club Development consultant to work with your district. Member development is not just a one-year campaign but should last three years. Grants are available through LCI to assist with membership development.

Each district is encouraged to have a Global Extension Chair and to appoint a Guiding Lion to the team of Club Organizer. Hold in-person workshops; review all information on LCI's website and download the tools provided. PDG Al Hedstrom is a resource to be utilized, as well as Tracy Gray, Senior Program Specialist, Member Development Division at LIC. Contact: 630-468-7114 or [tracy.gray@lionsclubs.org](mailto:tracy.gray@lionsclubs.org).

Bonus points for the competition were determined:

- 1 point = New Member Recruited
- 5 points = Formation of New Club
- 3 points = Formation of New Leo Club

### **State Office Communications – Executive Director Wendy Burns**

Executive Director Burns spent time touring hotels and gathering proposals in Port Huron, Kalamazoo and Lansing for future sites of both the Michigan Forum and MD 11 Convention. The 2024 Forum will be held in Grand Blanc with the Kalamazoo Delta Marriott looking like a good location for 2025, and the MD 11 Convention will be held in Grand Rapids in 2025 with an opening for the 2025 location.

The MD 11 Convention Committee met on location at the Sheraton by Marriott for a convention planning meeting, hotel and city tour, hosted by Experience Grand Rapids. We were treated to lunch at the Downtown Farmers Market and a tour of Meijer Gardens. It was a great kick-off to our planning for another outstanding convention.

The December Council of Governors meeting will be a busy one. At that time, Governors will decide on the two (2) recipients of the S. A. Dodge Award and LCI Presidential and Leadership Awards. Winning District Peace Posters and Essay Contests should be brought to the meeting for a vote of the overall, MD 11 winning poster and essay. Executive Director Burns will mail the winning poster/essay to LCI by the deadline. The last several years a monetary prize was awarded to the winner of the MD 11 contest in the amount of \$300.00. ED Burns asked the Governors to vote on whether or not to continue this trend.

**MOTION:** Hamilton, Hemeryck, to award a \$300 cash prize to the winner of the Peace Poster and Essay Contest. Motion carried.

Council Chair interviews will be held in December with the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governors voting on their 2024-2025 Council Chair. They may include 2<sup>nd</sup> VDGs to attend the interviews and review the process. IPCC Ron Gibson will preside over the interviews.

### **MD 11 Policy Manual Review:**

Send any edits, comments, changes, suggestions to VCC O'Lonergan, who will give a detailed report at the December meeting.

### **MD 11 Dues Review:**

DG Murch reported on the history of the most recent dues increase which occurred in 2009 when dues were increased by \$3.00, bringing the amount owed by a regular member to the current amount of \$10.00.

The 2019-2020 seated Governors proposed a \$3.00 increase be brought to a vote at the MD Convention in May 2020. Due to cancellation of the convention because of covid-related restrictions, the proposal was dropped.

An increase ranging from \$3.00-\$5.00 was brought up as a talking point. If a vote is to happen in May the timeline goes as follows: A proposal would be voted upon at the December Council of Governors meeting. Upon approval, the proposal would be presented to the Constitution and By Laws committee to create the ballot "language." The ballot proposal would then be posted in the upcoming issues of the Lion Pride to alert the membership and delegates at the convention would vote to approve or not approve the dues increase. This procedure is in place for all ballot procedures, not just the dues increase.

The Governors will decide at the December Council of Governors meeting.

### **VCC Michael O'Lonergan's Message:**

VCC O'Lonergan spoke on service to our community and how this can result in an increase in club membership, involvement, and awareness. Encourage younger members in your clubs to create new projects which in turn will show you value their input. Encourage them to get their friends to join. Keep an open mind to new ideas!

### **Kindness Matters Service Award:**

PDG Huffman, GST Chair, received three (3) nominations for the award this year. They are: White Cloud, E1; Duran, C2; East Jordan, E2, with East Jordan selected as the nominee to be sent to LCI for consideration of the award.

### **MD 11 Service Projects – PDG Terri Huffman**

PDG Huffman did some math during the afternoon break and came up with a total each district would need to contribute to the combined service projects for the year, which amounted to \$765/district for a grand total of \$7,650.00. The breakdown is as follows:

10 – Prosthetic Legs	\$2,500
10,000 – Meals for Kid's Coalition Against Hunger	\$3,500
100 – Tied Blankets for Sleep in Heavenly Peace	\$1,650

The District Governors Special Projects Fund could be a way to help fund these projects and take the financial burden off the districts. PDG Huffman asked for input from the Governors.



**MOTION:** White, Bauder, to donate up to \$5,000.00 from the DG Special Project fund to support three state service projects for the year: Blankets, meals, and prosthetics. Motion carried.

Substitute Tail Twister DG Kelley Unruh again twisted her way into the pockets of many, collecting fines totaling \$189.00 for the weekend.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Executive Director Wendy Burns