

1st Joint MD 11/District 10 Council of Governors Meeting
Friday-Saturday, August 1-2, 2025
Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant, MI

The meeting was called to order on Friday, August 1, at 7:00 p.m. by Council Chair Becky Hamilton. Those in attendance included **District Governors** Colleen Maki, D10; Kim Hooper, A1; Mark Scicluna, A2; Bea Furman, B1; Karen Bouwman, B2; Earl Howell, C1; Aleta Cozart, C2; Jerry Whitney, D1; Dave Fisher, D2; Jeff Schafer, E1; Marie Leathers, E2. **1st VDGs** in attendance: Kimberly Thiede, A2; Teresa Gest, B1; Brian Werschem, C1; Kenny Kinsey, C2; Toby Webber, D1. **2nd VDGs** in attendance: Rick DeClaire, III, A2; Bart Blegen, D1; Tom Watkins, D2; Acting 2nd VDG Heather Dourran, E1; Kris Roberts, E2.

Others in attendance: Council Chair Becky Hamilton, ID Dave Wineman, PID Gary Anderson, PID Esther LaMothe, PID Jenny Ware, IPCC Terri Huffman, State Treasurer Kelley Unruh, IPDG Scott Kwarciany, PDG Ron Riebschleger, PDG Roshni Patel, PDG Brent Beracy, PDG Traci Tribley, Lion Doug Klein, PDG Kurt Stromlund, PCC Dave Hill, PCC Dick DeLong, PCC Ron Gibson, PCC Peggy Allen and Executive Director Wendy Burns.

The meeting opened with the invocation by DG Furman and Pledge of Allegiance led by DG Marie Leathers, followed by introductions around the room and on Zoom.

IPCC Terri Huffman inducted PDG Becky Hamilton as the 2025-26 Council Chair. Council Chair Hamilton opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction of those present in the room and on Zoom.

MOTION: Scicluna, Hooper, to approve the August 1-2, 2025, agenda. Motion carried.

MOTION: Schafer, Cozart, to approve the May 2025 DGE minutes. Motion carried.

MOTION: Bouwman, Hooper, to receive the minutes of the May 16, 2025, Council of Governors meeting. Motion carried.

MOTION: Furman, Fisher, to approve the 2025-2026 MD 11 State Chairs. Motion carried.

New Business – PID Jenny Ware

To provide insight into the history of the MD 11 and District 10 partnership PID Ware drafted a review of our history to provide a better understanding of our joint relationship over the years.

Single District 10 and Multiple District 11 History and Relationship

First club in the State of Michigan formed in Marquette October 1919. District 10.

Second club in the State formed two weeks later in Grand Rapids. District 11.

Single District 10 (SD10) has a District Governor who oversees the Cabinet. Their governing documents are the Single District Constitution and By-Laws through Lions International and their Policy Manual.

Multiple District 11 (MD11) has a Council Chairperson who oversees the Council of Governors comprised of the 10 Sub-District Governors in MD11. Their governing documents are the Multiple District Constitution and By-Laws through Lions International and their Policy Manual.

SD10 has District Projects that have gone through the proper process in the District and have been voted upon by delegates at the SD10 conventions. A District project can be approved at a Cabinet Meeting by a vote of the Cabinet.

MD11 Projects **pages 24-28 MD11 Constitution and By-Laws

MD11 has Multiple District Projects and each **sub-district has District Projects**.

These projects have been approved at the MD11 and sub-district levels via their Constitutions and By-Laws.

State Projects are projects that as stated in the MD11 C&B-Ls, are 501©3 entities and have gone through the approval process by both SD10 and MD11. The State Projects are:

1. All State Band
2. Eversight
3. Leader Dogs
4. Lions of Michigan Service Foundation

The State Committee is comprised of 11 District Chairs. State Committee Chairperson is elected from the sitting committee.

Joint Projects are projects that have been mutually agreed upon by both SD10 and MD11 and have appointed representatives on the committee(s). The current Joint Projects are the Liaison Committee and the International Convention Committee.

Council of Governors meetings: MD11 holds regularly scheduled Council of Governors meetings. During these meetings items that may affect SD10 may be on the agenda. If this occurs, it is then called a Joint Meeting of the Council of Governors. The Vice District Governors are invited to attend.

MD11 C&B, page 29: ARTICLE XIV Joint Action with Single District 10

Section 1. The Council of Governors of Multiple District 11 is hereby authorized to enter into a joint policy agreement with the Governor of Single District 10, such agreement to be binding for any specified term, or until terminated by agreement or by provisions therein contained.

(This language speaks directly to the MD11 policy manual and having the authority for the council of MD11 to create the "ex-officio" position for the DG of SD10.)

Section 2. Such policy agreement may provide for joint sessions of the Council of Governors of both Multiple District 11 and Single District 10, jointly called by the Governor of Single District 10 and the MD11 Council Chairperson or as determined by joint action at a joint meeting of the Governors.

Items that jointly impact SD10/MD11:

Executive Director

Financial Reports/State Treasurer

State Projects – listed above

Joint Projects – listed above

Conventions:

SD10 has an annual District Convention.

MD11 has an annual Multiple District Convention.

Each Sub-District in MD11 has an annual District Convention.

MD11 Joint Action with SD10:

ARTICLE XIV, Joint Action with Single District 10, Page 29 MD11 Constitution and By-Laws

MD11 Policy Manual, Page 7, CLARIFICATION OF TERMS, paragraph 2:

“In the spirit of cooperation and collegiality with our fellow Lions in Single District 10, which is comprised of the entire Upper Peninsula of Michigan; Single District 10’s District Governor is considered an ex-officio member of the Council of Governors of Multiple District 11 and is entitled to all rights and privileges due to the office. Likewise, all Single District 10 Vice Governors are invited to partake in the Leadership Training provided by the Multiple District 11 Global Leadership Team.”

SD Dues paid to MD11, \$2.58 per Member

* \$0.40 to the Lions of Michigan International Convention Fund

This covers expenses of a gathering room and snacks/water at the Lions of Michigan hotel – this hotel is designated by LCI

**\$0.50 to the Liaison Fund

This is used for Lions seeking international positions – International Director, 3VP, 2VP, International President

***\$1.68 to State Office Administrative cost

Employee wages, expenses, supplies, building costs, etc

PID Ware recommends this historic information becomes part of the VDG training so that each year, incoming VDGs are informed.

Financial Report – PDG Kelley Unruh, State Treasurer

Treasurer Unruh has worked with Finance Committee members to streamline the financial reporting and make it more easily understood by all.

Information on deferred dues was provided. Invoices were sent to all district treasurers in July for the 1st half of 2025-2025. The overall amount is divided into 6 months and allocated by 1/6th of the money each month. Same will be done for the 2nd half of the year. Reports include the fund balance sheet, cash assets and investment accounts. The Lion Pride is a separate account and a 501 (c) 3 organization. Money was lost this past

year, and it was recommended research be done to move the Lion Pride to online accessibility. Discussion will be held by the District Editors committee for a recommendation to the council.

Membership losses affect the bottom line of the Lions of Michigan overall financials. Dues were increased over the past two years in \$2.00 increments, bringing the total amount for dues per member per year to \$14.00 for a regular member, \$7.00 for family and student members. The Lion Pride subscription is unchanged at \$4.50/year.

MOTION: Schafer, Cozart, to receive the financial report. Motion carried.

BUDGET- Treasurer Unruh stated the overall budget for the fiscal year would be based on membership totals which were 8,183 members from MD 11 and 1,321 members from District 10 as of June 30, 2025. She asked for approval of the overall budget, which reflects a 5% increase over last year. The Information Technology committee chair PDG Ray Robins made a budget request of \$1,530.00 for the 2025-25 year. This includes equipment expenses and any travel expenses for the chairperson who attends all meetings and operates the IT equipment necessary to record meetings and allow members to attend via Zoom.

MOTION: Shafer, Scicluna, to approve the budget recommendation and the IT budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Motion carried.

IPCC Terri Huffman reported that the Finance Review Committee has been meeting to review the finances and make recommendations, and the committee will be working to update reports, so they are efficient and easy to understand.

Constitution & By Laws Report – PCC Dick DeLong, Chair

PCC DeLong reviewed the role of the C&BL Chairperson. As chair, he reviews any changes that LCI may mandate based on amendment proposals voted upon at the LCI Convention. He reviewed the process of presenting a proposal to request a change or addition to the existing Constitution & By Laws. 2/3 of the delegates are needed to make an amendment change, and a vote must take place by 2/3 of the registered delegates present.

There are two ways to propose an amendment: A club can submit a request to the Council of Governors five (5) months prior to the Multiple District Convention; An Automatic Amendment, which are changes that LCI makes, and we adopt. The C&BL committee can propose a change in addition to the Council of Governors.

PCC DeLong sees a conflict in the current procedure in which the council elects a Council Chair, as it conflicts with LCI's policy. LCI states the Council Chair shall be elected at the end of the MD 11 Convention. We are currently electing a Council Chair at our 3rd Council of Governors meeting. He suggests fixing it by proposing an amendment to the bylaws. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

PCC DeLong requested the council make a motion to approve PDG Paul Hodge as the co-chair for the Constitution and By Laws committee.

MOTION: Howell, Scicluna, to approve the nomination of PDG Paul Hodge to the position of Co-Chair of the Constitution and By Laws committee. Motion carried.

Eastern Michigan Food Bank – Kara Ross

DG Marie Leathers made arrangements for Ms. Ross to speak about the Eastern MI Food Bank and how they are partnering with District 11 E1 to obtain a \$150,000.00 Hunger grant from LCI. This is a matching grant with \$22,000.00 of the \$50,000.00 currently raised.

1.5 million in Michigan experience food insecurity, affecting 15.4% of the population. There are seven (7) main food banks in the state with three buildings in Flint, alone. 22 counties provide food for 234,610 people while working with over 2,000 volunteers and 100 staff members.

Eastern MI Food Bank has purchased ten (10) acres of land to build a 50,000 square foot warehouse. The area they service will encompass many from E1, E1 and D10. The grant must be completed by October for submission and will be reviewed by LCI at their January board meeting.

Global Membership CA 1 Report – PDG Ron Riebschleger, Vice Chair Area Leader

PID Bob Block and PDG Riebschleger oversee District GAT leaders in Constitutional Area 1. They report to A.P. Singh and PID Pat Vannett. The recent GAT Summit held in Las Vegas was an opportunity to meet with many from Michigan to discuss the 2025-2025 goals, which include creating a 30-, 60-, and 90-day plan for membership goals. Retention of current members is always a major factor to our success and starting new clubs remains a strong focus for GAT leaders and District Governors.

At the close of 2024-2025, MD 11 was last in Constitutional Area 1 for membership, but today we are in the number one spot with a plus of 49 members! Eight of our eleven districts, which include District 10, show positive membership.

MOTION: Hooper, Fisher, to receive the GAT Area Leader Report. Motion carried.

District 10 GAT Report – DG Colleen Maki

District 10 ended 2024-2025 with a positive fifteen (15) for membership. A new club was chartered in May in Marquette. Many clubs will assist with this year's Tour de Yoop biking event by provided hydration stations, rest stops, meals and overnight stays. This event raised \$130,000.00 for childhood cancer and the goal for 2025 is to raise \$150,000.00. Service reporting from clubs in District 10 stands at 80%. Project KidSight screenings will take place at the U.P. State Fair over a six-day period involving many Lion volunteers. This is a large service project for the district.

MOTION: Hooper, Furman, to receive the District 10 Global Action Team report. Motion carried.

The meeting recessed until 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 2.

**1st Joint MD 11/District 10 Council of Governors Meeting
Friday-Saturday, August 1-2, 2025
Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant, MI**

The meeting was called to order on Saturday, August 2, at 9:00 a.m. by Council Chair Becky Hamilton. Those in attendance included **District Governors** Colleen Maki, D10; Kim Hooper, A1; Mark Scicluna, A2; Bea Furman, B1; Karen Bouwman, B2; Earl Howell, C1; Aleta Cozart, C2; Jerry Whitney, D1; Dave Fisher, D2; Jeff Schafer, E1; Marie Leathers, E2. **1st VDGs** in attendance: Kimberly Thiede, A2; Teresa Gest, B1; Brian Werschem, C1; Kenny Kinsey, C2; Toby Webber, D1. **2nd VDGs** in attendance: Rick DeClaire, III, A2; Bart Blegen, D1; Tom Watkins, D2; Acting 2nd VDG Heather Dourran, E1; Kris Roberts, E2.

Others in attendance: Council Chair Becky Hamilton, ID Dave Wineman, PID Gary Anderson, PID Esther LaMothe, PID Jenny Ware, IPCC Terri Huffman, State Treasurer Kelley Unruh, PDG Roshni Patel, PDG Brent Beracy, Lion Elvie Marfil, Lion Doug Klein, PDG Kurt Stromlund, PCC Peggy Allen and Executive Director Wendy Burns.

The meeting opened with a meditation by DG Bea Furman and Pledge of Allegiance was led by DG Marie Leathers.

Lions Youth Exchange – Lion Elvie Marfil, Chair

International students arrived in Michigan and were paired up with their host families. Lion Marfil introduced six students who will stay with their host families and attend camp with area Leo members.

Global Membership Team Report – PDG Roshni Patel, Chair

PDG Patel covered various Lions Club activities and initiatives, including roster management, recruitment efforts, and service projects. A recent meeting was held with District GMTs to discuss membership challenges, strategies for engaging new members, and plans for upcoming events such as a membership drive and service activities. The group also addressed grant applications, club closures, and promotional materials, while exploring ways to boost membership and support community initiatives.

LCI offers two grants that PDG Patel is interested in applying for. One is for membership, and the other is a Marketing Grant. The Membership Grant requirement states 50 new members or a new club must be formed.

She would like to apply for the Marketing Grant with the intent of purchasing flag banners that districts would be able to use. This is a \$15,000.00 grant and she asked the council for a motion to approve writing a Marketing Grant.

MOTION: Leathers, Scicluna, to approve writing a Marking Grant.

Lion Doug Kline, PR Chair, just completed the final paperwork for the 2024-2025 PR/Marketing Grant and supports MD 11 should apply for this annually.

MOTION: Scicluna, Furman, to amend the motion to approve up to \$1,500.00 for the grant with each district to contribute \$150.00 for the required \$1,500.00 match.

PID Gary Anderson reported that Lions USA and Affiliates are working on creating a country-wide campaign with the goal of getting all MDs to apply for the grant and pool funds, creating a bigger financial impact and using the same logo throughout. It was suggested that we create banners/flyers to match what will be used by Lions USA-A.

MOTION: Scicluna, Furman, amend the motion to state approval to submit the Marketing Grant application with a \$1,500.00 match coming from the districts of MD 11. 3 nay votes: Fisher, Whitney, Cozart. Motion carried.

Global Extension Team Report – PDG Brent Beracy

A number of clubs are in the early stages of new club development, but none are pending as of this first Council meeting of the year. Mission 1.5 goal is for 11 new clubs in MD 11 which is attainable.

The GAT Summitt held in Las Vegas was a great, hands-on training course for DGs and District GAT members. Every district has been tasked with creating an action plan to form new clubs within the next 30 days. There are 41 Guiding Lions in the state and there will be an MD 11 Guiding Lion training scheduled soon.

MOTION: Fisher, Shafer, to accept the GET report provided by PDG Brent Beracy. Motion carried.

Global Service Team Report – IPDG Cheryl Anderson

The service project to benefit RISE was a highly successful event with districts all contributing products for this project. Items were collected during the Council meeting and a RISE representative picked up the donations. Each Council of Governors meeting will focus on a service project this year to make an impact in the community where a meeting is held. October's project in Gaylord involves bringing donations of warm weather clothing for the local school district or church clothing bank.

Kindness Service Award nominations will be reviewed at the October Council of Governors meeting and IPDG Anderson will submit the nominations to LCI for consideration by the October 31 deadline.

Service reporting – MD 11's goal is to be 100% with reporting service to LCI via the portal. There will be a Zoom meeting for District GST Chairs soon, to make sure all are informed on how to report through the portal.

MOTON: Furman, Whitney, to accept the Global Service Team report. Motion carried.

DG Hooper suggested looking for Champion Clubs as a new branch club to start in the districts. This is a specialty club with a focus on Special Olympics.

PID Anderson discussed the upcoming Zoom event called the "Lions Service Carnival". This is an energizing, community-wide event designed to bring volunteering to life through booths, hands-on projects & fun for all ages! Lions & local groups come together to serve — then invite the whole community to join in. You'll leave this session ready to plan your own event that builds buzz, partnerships & purpose. August 7th and 14th are the training sessions. A flyer will be sent to Governors.

Global Leadership Team Report – PDG Traci Tribley

The first of four (4) training courses was held on Friday, August 1, for the 1st/2nd Vice District Governors. Curriculum was provided by LCI in time for the first session. VDGs reported that they have been receiving regular online training from LCI leaders throughout the summer and will continue online training year-round.

MOTION: Howell, Bouwman, to accept the GLT report. Motion carried.

LCI Report – International Director David Wineman

At the recent LCI Convention all ballot items were passed. They included redistribution of the number of International Directors and a rule against District Governor and Vice District Governor belonging to the same club.

Discussed at the board meeting was a strategy for a future dues increase. LCIF's goal of reaching \$80 million in donations was achieved. Clubs are strongly encouraged to utilize the Global Membership Approach when working on ways to increase membership. Loss of membership in our state creates a loss of board chair positions. Michigan must end with a positive membership this year to keep our seat at the table! As mentioned, the 100 Day Club Challenge is going on now and each district needs to start a new club within 100 days.

MD 11 award nomination deadlines are quickly approaching. Governors will review and vote on the nominees at their December Council meeting. PID Wineman also discussed a new specialty club with a focus on Autism. He is currently helping a group start this club.

The Helen Keller Challenge is a simple one for all clubs to get on board with: Create and carry out one new service project.

PID Wineman is putting together the requests for District Convention speakers. If a Governor has not notified PID Wineman of their preference or date of convention, contact him immediately.

It was also stressed that Specialty Clubs in your district should be strongly investigated as a way to start a new club within the 100-day challenge. He is working to help start a Neurodivergent Club after meeting with the parent of an autistic child. They are looking for ways to raise the initiation fee required to start a club and more will be reported as progress continues.

MOTION: Fisher, Cozart, to accept the LCI report. Motion carried.

Lions Leadership Institute Report – PID Jenny Ware, Chair

The LLI was founded in 1999 and is still a strong program today. Committee members include VDG Kimberly Thiede, PIDs Esther LaMothe and Gary Anderson, Lion James Boomer and PCC Brian Shephard.

Dates are November 7 - 9, 2025 and will be held at the R. A. MacMullan Center 104 Conservation Drive Roscommon, MI 48653. Cost this year is \$350.00 or \$300.00/person for double occupancy. If a district donates \$350.00 to the institute, they can designate a member to attend at no additional fee.

New this year is the Emerging Lions Institute, geared toward beginner Lions with a focus on educational training. Also new, reduced fee for double occupancy of rooms. A limited number of handicapped accessible rooms are available.

In 2026 they will bring back the Lions Leadership Institute and Lions Graduate Institute, which is beneficial for anyone interested in becoming a VDG. Registration is available online via the Lions of Michigan website.

MOTION: Leathers, Fisher, to accept the Lions Leadership Institute report. Motion carried.

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

The trip to the International Convention in Orlando was a great success with 31 musicians making up the band. The group participated in band camp before leaving by bus with a stop in Pigeon Forge, TN, to do service work, attend a song writing symposium, a tour of Dollywood with live musical performances at the Grand Ole Opry and other stops along the way.

Students enjoyed participating in the Parade of Nations and took 2nd place in the judging this year, earning a cash prize of \$800.00. They visited Disney World as tourists.

An agenda is in the works for the 2026 trip to Hong Kong. Band director Jason Russell and a representative from Bob Rogers Travel went to Hong Kong to work on the itinerary. At this time, it is estimated the cost per band member will be \$5,000.00. IPCC

Terri Huffman asked if new uniforms would be purchased for next year's flag team. Lion Davis explained that the flags and equipment from last year were lost in Australia and not noticed until just prior to the trip. Uniforms and flags were borrowed from a school and replacements will be purchased for 2026.

MOTION: Hooper, Shafer, to accept the LMASB report. Motion carried.

Diabetes Report – Lion Roger Blackwell, Chair

Lion Blackwell and Lion Ed Bohach have been working with the National Kidney Foundation on applying for an LCIF grant. This grant would provide the financial resources to offer health screenings across the state, create Type 2 Diabetes awareness and help to prevent chronic kidney disease through screenings. The grant money would enable 6-8 paid staff members to work at Lion sponsored events and screenings. A professional would be on site to go over screening results.

This is a \$250,000.00 grant requiring a 25% match. Seven districts have been identified to partner with the program for a two-year period. The districts are A1, A2, B1, C1, C2, D1 and D10. The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) has the staff and Lions have contacts and connections in the community to identify where the NKF can provide support.

On September 13 a pilot screening will take place in Monroe at the 1st Presbyterian Church, and they are hoping for 100 participants. Anyone screened will be provided with resources for assistance if needed.

DG Leathers asked Lion Blackwell where the matching funds would come from, and he stated that some of the districts and the NKF would raise the required amount, which is \$62,500.00. 50% of the matching funds would come from Lions and 50% from NKF.

MOTION: Whitney, Furman, to approve the Diabetes report. Motion carried.

LCIF Report – IPCC Terri Huffman

IPCC Huffman is the new LCIF chairperson for the state and has been working to provide updated information to the District Governors on the donations to LCIF from the districts and has already been in touch with the LCIF district chairs. A handout was provided to Governors that outlined talking points to refer to when meeting with clubs and reviewing all that LCIF offers.

LCIF is the heart of our global service and transforms compassion into impact, awarding grants in over 200 countries. They provide relief through disaster relief for local flood and storm recovery grants; partner with hospitals and support groups impacting childhood cancer programs; assist with vision grants for SightMobile units, screenings, eyeglass donations; Hunger grants provide money for food pantries and Lions-led drives; Youth programs such as Lions Quest, the environment and diabetes.

To support LCIF and their initiatives, Lions/Clubs are asked to:

- Give individual contributions of \$50-\$500

- Promote monthly auto drafts, matching gifts, estate planning
- Club contributions
- Fundraising
- Set district goals

LCIF has a goal of raising \$300 million this year.

MOTION: Howell, Cozart, to approve the LCIF report. Motion carried.

Hunger Report – PDG Bill Bauder, Chair

PDG Bauder is working to identify all food banks in the state and to give this information to the district chairpersons so they can work to partner with local food banks as needed. PDG Bauder works directly with the Eastern MI Food Bank and has helped to donate over one million pounds of food over the past years through the hunger program in District 11 D1.

He stressed that the Hunger committee is in need of funding in an effort to meet the needs of so many who will soon be feeling the effects of government cuts. PDG Bauder anticipates an increase in food insecurity and requests for assistance. He asked that the Governors put “Hunger” on the list of donations when planning their district fall conferences. This would generate needed funds.

USA/Canada Forum – PID Gary Anderson

PID Anderson has made all contacts and necessary arrangements for Michigan to host the Midwest Breakfast at the USA/Canada Forum in Atlantic City. The breakfast will be held on Friday, September 19 at 6:30 a.m. Many LCI leaders and ID’s attend the Midwest breakfast, making this an excellent opportunity to meet with them in a smaller setting. Volunteers are needed to help with registration, greeting, etc. Sign up to help as soon as possible by contacting PID Anderson or Executive Director Burns.

PID Anderson and Lion Burns asked the council for \$500.00 to help with the cost of hosting this annual breakfast. The money would be used to offset the cost to attendees, bringing down the fee to \$43/person instead of the \$50 fee that is being charged. They suggested using funds from the International Convention account since this is considered an international event.

MOTION: Cozart, Scicluna, to approve funding up to \$500.00 for expenses related to the USA/Canada Midwest Breakfast, with money coming from the International Convention fund. Motion carried.

The USA/Canada Forum committee is looking for a 2028 host location. PID Anderson was approached and asked to contact the city of Grand Rapids and request a proposal from GR to be considered as a location to hold this event. A special meeting of the 2024-2025 District Governors was held and a vote taken to approve moving ahead with receiving a proposal from Experience Grand Rapids. This was done outside of a regular meeting due to the early deadline in May to submit the proposal to the review

team. The proposal has been submitted, and we are now waiting for a decision by the committee.

The Rose Bowl Parade is a great experience that Lions can participate in. From helping with the float, to donations to the building supplies, to front row seats at the parade, Lions can become involved. The Rose Bowl Parade committee is asking each member to donate just \$1.00 which will enable them to build a float on a grander scale for the 2026 Rose Parade.

Executive Director Report – Lion Wendy Burns

Lion Burns welcomed the new 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors as well as the Governors to their first meeting of the year and looks forward to a great year together.

The Who's Who is still in progress and Governors were asked to complete the request form that was provided in May and get roster information to the state office as soon as possible so the booklet can be compiled. First half district dues were sent to the District Treasurer's on July 11th. Annual dues are now \$14/member; \$7/family/student. It was reported that three districts have already submitted their payments. 2nd half dues invoices will be sent in mid-January.

To date, six of the districts have donated to the grant being applied for through the Fetzer Employee Grant. DG Karen Bouwman is employed with Fetzer and offered to donate to the Lions of Michigan this year. Each district agreed to pay a minimum of \$341 toward the \$7,500.00 match to receive the full grant of \$22,500.00. Any district making a donation will receive a match back to be used for leadership training. Six districts have now donated \$2,214.00 towards \$7,500.00.

The Cornhole tournament has been rescheduled for Sunday, October 26 at 1:00 p.m. Get a team together and join the fun! This is a great opportunity to introduce prospective members to Lions.

The Michigan Forum committee will meet soon with new state chair, PDG Julie Mayuiers. The committee is open to new ideas for topics to be covered in one of the 16 planned sessions. Let Lion Burns know if there is a subject you'd like to see included. The Forum will be held in Kalamazoo on February 27-28, 2026.

TreeTops Resort is the location of the 2nd Council of Governors meeting, October 3-4. We are honored to have VP Mark Lyon as a special guest speaker. VP Lyon will attend this meeting via Zoom.

MOTION: Whitney, Bouwman, to approve the Executive Director's report. Motion carried.

Information Technology Report – PDG Ray Robins

PDG Robins provided the goals he will be sharing with the IT District Chairs. They include providing support for video conferencing, reviewing Lion websites for content

and highlighting those with outdated posts and content. Identify and assist with website updates and platforms being used. Many use outdated websites and there are improved options available. PDG Robins will continue to work with the PR Chair, Lion Doug Klein, to assist with the new efforts to create a PR video content for the Lions of Michigan to use.

The IT budget for 2025-26 was detailed by PDG Robins. He has requested an estimated budget of \$1,530.00. Funds would be used for annual Zoom subscriptions, replacement of equipment, purchase of new equipment and meeting expenses for the IT chair, which include travel and hotel expenses.

MOTION: Whitney, Fisher, to approve the Information Technology budget request of up to \$1,530.00 for the 2025-26 year. Motion carried.

Lion Robins has provided invaluable IT support to keep not only Council meetings running with Zoom support for those unable to attend but has also helped the membership with Zoom meetings for clubs as well as numerous committee meetings.

Public Relations/Marketing Report – Lion Doug Klein, Chair

The 2024-2025 LCI PR & Marketing Grant was wrapped up on June 30, 2025. This successful campaign called “Localeyes” covered the costs of having a professional, local, public relations agency assist us in developing and disseminating publicity materials. A Publicity Toolkit was created that clubs can use as a starting point in their own public relations campaign. The Localeyes materials are now being distributed by MD 11 and District 10 Governors and clubs so that they may be used as a guide for enhanced PR efforts by local clubs to get more stories of service to local TV and other media.

Localeyes is a term that has double meaning for Lions: *Localizing* our messages to each club’s community, as well to refer to our primary global cause of vision.

Lion Klein and Carrie Rathbun, of Rathbun Public Relations, provided training at a breakout session held at the Lion Michigan Forum. Lion Klein submitted this training as a breakout to be held at the recent LCI Convention and was selected as a keynote speaker. Anyone wishing to have Lion Klein attend their club or district meeting to provide more information on Localeyes is welcome to contact him and he will be happy to attend.

MD 11 Policy Manual Review – CC Becky Hamilton

The MD 11 Policy Manual is reviewed annually by each council and may be updated at any time, as opposed to the Constitution and By Laws. A review team will be appointed, and Governors are asked to read through this document and send any recommendations for edits, changes, updates, etc., to the review team.

District Governors Jeff Schafer and Mark Scicluna volunteered to take on the position. They will compile any requests and bring this up for discussion at the October Council meeting in Gaylord.

Tail Twister Fines – DG Aleta Cozart

Fines were collected and all were in agreement to donate the money raised to help offset the cost of initiation fees for the new specialty club ID Wineman is working with. \$161.00 was collected in fines.

MOTION: Fisher, Howell, to adjourn the meeting of the Council of Governors. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Executive Director Wendy Burns