

2nd Joint MD 11 District 10 Council of Governors Meeting
Friday – Saturday, October 3-4, 2025
TreeTops Resort, Gaylord, Michigan

The meeting was called to order on Friday, October 3, at 7:03 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; Aleta Cozart, C2; Dave Fisher, D2; Jeff Schafer, E1; Marie Leathers, E2. **1st VDGs** in attendance: Gary Peralá, District 10; Kimberly Thiede, A2; Alice Kring, B2; Brian Werschem, C1; Kenny Kinsey, C2; Toby Webber, D1. **2nd VDGs** in attendance: Rick DeClaire, III; Gregg Brindamour, B1; Theresa Dunham, B2; A2; Kris Roberts, E2. **Others in attendance:** Council Chair Becky Hamilton, PID Gary Anderson, PID Jenny Ware, PID Bob Block, Lion Brenda Block, State Treasurer Kelley Unruh, GET Brent Beracy, GST Cheryl Anderson, PCC Dave Hill, PCC Peggy Allen, IPDG Carl Cozart, and Executive Director Wendy Burns.

The meeting opened with the invocation by DG Furman and Pledge of Allegiance led by DG Marie Leathers.

MOTION: Scicluna, Furman, amend the October agenda to move Building Membership through Branch Clubs from 8:15 pm October 3, to 7:10 pm. Motion carried.

MOTION: Scicluna, Fisher to approve minutes from the August 2025 Council of Governors meeting.

PID Ware asked to amend the motion under New Business to change from *‘PID Jenny Ware provided’* to *‘PID Ware shared a review provided by the Liaison committee’*
Motion was amended and carried.

MOTION: Schafer, Scicluna, to approve the Written Reports. Motion carried.

Building Membership through Branch Clubs – PCC David Hill

PCC Hill was asked to lead a session on increasing membership. The following is a summary of the high points:

- Governors should have a written membership plan
- Each district should have a membership workshop
- Require every club to commit to a membership event
- Identify district Lions who have recruited and sponsored multiple new Lions, recognize them and invite them to brainstorm together.
- Create a Membership Recruitment program which could include contests, rewards and recognition.
- Identify all district Lions that have resigned in the last five years and call them to conduct a "Lost Lion Survey" (example copy distributed).
- Identify community initiatives that your Lion Club has supported and explore making them a Branch Club.
- Use the Lion Community Assessment.

Branch Clubs' examples included Diabetes, Yoga, winter coats, Bankers and hobby clubs (ex: quilting groups).

Midwest Breakfast-USA/Canada Forum – PID Gary Anderson

It was a successful breakfast in Atlantic City with every International Director in attendance along with President Singh, VP Mark Lyon, and approximately 176 Lions and guests in attendance. The response was very positive overall, with some complaints about the shortage of food. PID Anderson plans to address this with hotel staff who oversaw food/beverage for the event.

It was agreed upon at the last Council meeting that funds would be made available through the International Convention fund to help offset any costs associated with the breakfast, such as comped meals for VIP guests. \$500.00 was provided to PID Gary Anderson with a request for an additional \$750.00 to cover final expenses. 156 paid guests and 21 additional guests had meals comped. Price per person was \$43.00.

The USA/Canada Forum will be held in Memphis September 3-5, 2026, in Memphis, TN. The committee approved Grand Rapids, MI, as the site for the 2028 Forum.

PID Anderson had an exhibit booth at the Forum promoting A Ball for All. 220 balls were sold at the exhibit.

PID Anderson brought up the Tournament of Roses Parade and how Lions can win a trip to ride in the float through the purchase of a \$20.00 raffle ticket sold by the parade committee. Tickets are available through PID Anderson.

Global Service Report – IPDG Cheryl Anderson

Professing that service is the best feeling, GST Chair Anderson referred to the mounds of donated winter weather wear sent by each district to the council meeting. The donation will go to the Gaylord Public Schools and be distributed as needed throughout the district.

Governors were provided with a list of each district's service reporting through September. District D2 is at the top of the list with 93% of service reported by clubs, followed by E1 with 56% reporting. She has offered to assist anyone in need of assistance in navigating the LCI portal to report service. Many times, a club does not report simply because they are unsure as to how to do it.

If clubs need ideas for service projects, LCI's website has many suggestions. Upcoming monthly focus includes Mental Health and Wellbeing Awareness, October 4-12; Hunger Awareness, January 3-11, 2026; Environmental Awareness, April 18-26. The website offers service ideas for these events and more.

Kindness Award: District C1, Rockford Lions Club, and A2 were each submitted applications for the Kindness in Service Award. MD 11 will vote on one recipient which will then be forwarded to LCI for consideration of this year's award. District C1 was nominated for their community Scare Crow project and A2 was nominated for their

involvement with providing beds to those in need through Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Cast your votes by October 7 to IPDG Cheryl Anderson. She will then submit the MD 11 winning applicant to LCI for consideration.

The Club Excellence Award's criteria have been updated. Review the information on the LCI website for complete details.

Financial Report - PDG Kelley Unruh, State Treasurer

The Council received a copy of all financial reports provided by Treasurer Unruh. Without any questions or comments, the reports stand as provided.

Lions Leadership Institute – PID Jenny Ware, Chair

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

The Leadership Institute program will be offered this year, as well. In 2026 they will bring back the Lions Leadership Institute and Lions Graduate Institute, which is beneficial for anyone interested in becoming a VDG. PID Ware noted that DG Kimberly Thiede and PCC Brian Shephard will assist as co-chairs of the Institute this year.

PID Ware announced that she is now on the LCI list as a 3rd Vice Presidential Candidate. This is exciting news for Michigan! She will be going to Dublin, Ireland, to meet with LCI leaders in November, and will be formally interviewed at the LCI convention in Hong Kong. Everyone in attendance congratulated PID Ware on this accomplishment.

MOTION: Cozart, Furman, to receive the Leadership Institute report. Motion carried.

Tail Twister Fines – DG Aleta Cozart did another fine job of collecting from everyone before the meeting recessed at 8:40 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

2nd Joint MD 11 District 10 Council of Governors Meeting Friday – Saturday, October 3-4, 2025 TreeTops Resort, Gaylord, Michigan

The meeting was called to order on Saturday, October 4, 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; Aleta Cozart, C2; Dave Fisher, D2; Jeff Schafer, E1; Marie Leathers, E2. **1st VDGs** in attendance: Gary Peralta, District 10; Kimberly Thiede, A2; Alice Kring, B2; Brian Werschem, C1; Kenny Kinsey, C2; Toby Webber, D1. **2nd VDGs** in attendance: Rick DeClaire, III, A2; Gregg Brindamour, B1; Theresa Dunham, B2; Heather Duran, E1; Kris Roberts, E2. **Others in attendance:** Council Chair Becky Hamilton, PID Jenny Ware, PID Justin Faber, PID Bob Block, Lion Brenda Block, State Treasurer Kelley Unruh, PCC Peggy Allen, IPDG Carl Cozart, Lion Sheryl Schafer and Executive Director Wendy Burns.

The meeting opened with the invocation led by DG Furman and Pledge of Allegiance led by DG Leathers.

LCI 1st VP Mark Lyon – Open Discussion

VP Lyon appeared as a special guest on Zoom. He discussed the Lions of the USA and Affiliates which is now a 501(c)3 organization.

Objectives are to increase growth in service and growth in membership. Service opportunities continue to grow, creating the need for more Lions. Mission 1.5 is on-going in the effort to maintain our membership. Clubs need to increase membership over the next 2-3 years, and everyone needs to be a part of the effort. Create enthusiasm in your club by attacking local service projects with a new vigor and make an impact!

Advocacy – Work with elected leaders and representatives and create an Advocacy Club. Send a letter about what Lions are about and ask where our work can support the biggest need. VP Lyon hopes to see an Advocacy Club as a Model in the United States, resulting in many Advocacy Clubs working together with elected officials.

VP Lyon will be traveling with PID Faber to all the upcoming LCI Leadership Forums, and he noted that PID Faber is the DGE school trainer this year. PID Ware was congratulated on behalf of LCI for receiving a certified endorsement as 3rd Vice President.

In closing VP Lyon reinforced the need for specialty clubs which offer more opportunities and a focus on a special purpose. Traditional clubs are still highly valuable and important to Lions International and to our future.

Endorsement of PID Robert Rettby

MD 11 Lions were asked by PID David Wineman to endorse the candidacy of Past International Director Robert Rettby from Multiple District 102 (Switzerland) as International 3rd Vice President for election at the 2026 International Convention in Hong Kong.

MOTION: Maki, Scicluna, to endorse candidate PID Robert Rettby for the position of 3rd Vice President of Lions Clubs International. Motion carried.

Global Membership Report – PDG Roshni Patel

PDG Patel provided a handout to the Governors of what each district chair is working on within their district. Each district is working hard to develop new clubs, retain members, add new members, and form Leo clubs.

District A1 has received a Membership Grant; B1 has applied for the Membership Grant. District E2 is hoping to form a new club in Gaylord.

Attendance on Zoom calls has been low, and PDG Patel has sent messages to District GMT members and made DGs aware of this.

MOTION: Hooper, Furman, to receive the GMT report. Motion carried.

District 10 Global Action Team Report – DG Colleen Maki

Service reporting is at 40% in the district.

The annual Tour Da Yoop is a large event that acts as a service project for many clubs who provide rest stops, water stations, meals, etc.

Project KidSight screenings were made available for seven (7) days during the duration of the U.P. State Fair. Many Lions Clubs help to serve at this event, making for an excellent joint project between clubs.

GMT – A Lioness Club that had refused to become a Lions Club is now open to this possibility. If they make the move, this could add between 30-40 new members to District 10.

Constitutional Area E – PID Bob Block

PID Block provided information to the council on financial suspension of clubs, and what this designation means. LCI deems a club on financial suspension when dues payments are overdue. A list will soon be made available, and Governors need to be aware and stay on top of clubs in their district that are placed in this category.

Charter members now count as new members! We have IPDG Scott Kwarciany to thank for this as he pushed for recognition of charter members. PID Block took his suggestion to LCI leaders, and they listened.

Monday Zoom meetings are scheduled regularly, and each district is asked to send at least one (1) representative to attend.

Status Quo Clubs: A list is provided by LCI around the 10th of each month. Again, Governors need to access the list and be aware of clubs in their district.

PDG Ron Riebschleger and PID Block work together as the CAE leaders. PDG Riebschleger oversees retention of members, PID Block works with new club development. Retention has a focus on “Stop the Drops.” Keeping Lions strong and engaged are key to retention. Asking members at meetings why they joined is a great way to remind them of their commitment to serve.

Membership Brochures: Available for free to download on the LCI website. Be sure to check out the newest “HELLO” tri-fold brochure.

Membership Roundtable-

Each district was asked to share the latest membership and success stories from their district. Everyone had positive results to share. B1 is creating a membership recruitment video and will share with all when it is complete. B2 has focused on a 3-year plan for the district with a theme of “Roots down to Flourish.” DG nourishes the soil, 1st VDG works to strengthen the roots while the 2nd VDG reaches out, flourishes and ignites. The dream is to grow a forest of Lions! E1 invited members to a potluck and bonfire for a record turnout of 46 members for a brain-storming Zone meeting. E2 enlisted a motivational speaker to a recent cabinet meeting that would typically have only four in attendance.

Attendance increased to 30. The district continues to work on their Hunger Grant to benefit a new Food Bank facility and is working toward establishing a new Gaylord Lions Club.

Financial Team Report – PID Justin Faber

The Finance team has met over the past year to review financial documents, work toward a better understanding of overall finances of MD 11 and develop a simpler format for council reports. PID Faber suggested that a policy manual would be a good guide for current and future committee members as well as council members. A draft was created and sent to committee members for input and approval. It was then sent to the MD 11 PM review team of DGs Schafer and Scicluna for input, revision, etc.

In review of the proposed policy, it would not correspond to the current Constitution and By Laws as a Finance Committee is not listed. A recommendation was made to create an Ad-Hoc Committee for the balance of this year and next year. Refine the Financial PM for committee purpose and goals and then consider a vote of the membership.

PID Faber asked the council for approval now as an Ad-Hoc committee, providing the members with direction. It is not a permanent committee, and he did not see a need to include it in the Policy Manual at this time.

PID Esher LaMothe agreed that an Ad-Hoc committee is the best option. When a Policy Manual is ready and refined over time, consider inclusion in the MD 11 Policy Manual. VDG Toby Weber, a member of the committee, stated the committee isn't asking to make decisions on finances, only recommendations. PID LaMothe recommended a motion be made.

MOTION: Bouwman, Fisher, to approve an Ad-Hoc Finance Committee with initial draft of the committee directives to be used as a starting point of direction. Motion carried.

Communications – Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director

Lion Pride Publication: The past two issues were emailed only as a trial run, with no requests for paper copies. This saved approximately \$5,000 each issue. To pursue that route, Lion Burns suggested a review of the C& BL and Policy Manual by the District Editor's committee with a recommendation to the Council at the December meeting. District Governors were asked to provide individual, professional photos for use in the Pride.

Attendance at the USA/Canada Forum offered many opportunities to attend breakout sessions, keynote addresses, and an annual meeting with other state executives. Assisted during the Strides Walk, Ball for All exhibit booth and Midwest Breakfast.

MD 11 Convention Co-Chairs Dave and Brenda Hacker and Lion Burns toured Shanty Creek Resort for the upcoming MD 11 Convention. President A.P. Singh is the guest speaker in May. A youth organization in the Bellaire community will be contacted to see

what can be done as a service project that will benefit youth in the Bellaire community. The next step is to speak with the Director of the after-school program to identify the need. The first in-person meeting with the MD 11 Convention committee is on October 18 at the state office.

The Lions Michigan Forum committee met via Zoom in September to discuss session topics and all-things Forum. An in-person meeting will also be held on October 18 following the MD 11 Convention committee meeting. They will select a keynote speaker and narrow down sessions to 16, as well as work on a service project. The Forum will be held February 27-28, 2026, at the Delta Marriott Hotel, followed by the Council of Governors meeting February 28-March 1, 2026.

The Cornhole Tournament scheduled for October 26 has low attendance and will most likely be cancelled.

Reminder: December 5-6, 2025, we will meet at a new location. Holiday Inn and Suites, Mt. Pleasant.

LCIF Report – PID Justin Faber

PDG Terri Huffman, LCIF Chair, provided reports that were handed out to the council. Highlighted in the report was the power of giving and supporting LCIF. Every dollar entrusted to LCIF becomes a grant that has the potential to transform lives -whether it is for disaster relief, vision care, diabetes support, hunger initiatives and much more.

Support LCIF through monthly donations. Consider a monthly, \$20 donation. New this year, the Michigan LCIF Pin. Show your LCIF and Michigan Pride with a \$10 purchase of a pin.

PID Faber added that many districts have already exceeded donation goals this year. He also pointed out the “Empowering Service” contributions donate 15% back to the district.

MD 11 Policy Manual Review -DG Jeff Schafer

PDGs Schafer and Scicluna have reviewed the MD 11 PM and propose the following recommendations:

1. Current wording: Qualifications item 5 (Page 8):

5. The GLT, GMT, and GST multiple district coordinators report to the MD GAT Chairperson, which is the Council Chair. Regular communication between Council Chair and GAT leaders is required. The GAT position overview can be found on the LCI website.

Proposed new wording:

5. The **GET**, GLT, GMT, and GST multiple district coordinators report to the MD GAT Chairperson, which is the Council Chair. Regular communication between Council Chair and GAT leaders is required. The GAT position overview can be found on the LCI

website.

Rationale:

The GET has been omitted from the list of multiple district coordinators that make up the GAT and report to the Council Chair.

2. Current wording: Selection Process item 5 (Page 9):

5. Before the third Council Meeting, on a date mutually selected, the Second Vice District Governors will interview selected applicants. The most recent available Past Council Chairperson will chair this meeting with a Past International Director serving as an advisor.

Proposed new wording:

5. Before the third Council Meeting, on a date mutually selected, the **First** Vice District Governors will interview selected applicants. The most recent available Past Council Chairperson will chair this meeting with a Past International Director serving as an advisor.

Rationale:

The sitting First Vice District Governors should be interviewing selected applicants, not the 2nd VDG.

3. Current wording: Expectations of Council Chairperson: (Page 8) first paragraph after item 12:

The Council Chairperson presides over all Council Meetings and makes emergency decisions on behalf of the Council of Governors on matters that arise between Council Meetings. He/she may poll his/her Governor by letter, e-mail, or telephone. Any vote taken by the Council by mail-in ballot, e-mail, or telephone must be carried by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Council.

Proposed new wording:

The Council Chairperson presides over all Council Meetings and makes emergency decisions on behalf of the Council of Governors on matters that arise between Council Meetings. He/she may poll the Governors by letter, e-mail, or telephone. Any vote taken by the Council by mail-in ballot, e-mail, or telephone must be carried out by **2/3** of the Council.

Rationale:

The Constitution & By-Laws of MD-11 (Fiscal Year 2023-2024) on page 20 under "Business Transacted by Mail" states the following:

This Council of Governors may transact business by mail (including letters, electronic mail, facsimile transmission, or cable), provided that no such action shall be effective until approved in writing by two-thirds (2/3) of the entire number of the members of the council of governors. Such action may be initiated by the Council Chairperson or any three (3) members of said council.

To comply with our own C&BL, the change is recommended.

4. Exhibit A: Addition: Organization/Programs (Page 46):

Add "GET – Global Extension Team"

5. Section IV State Treasurer: Evaluation (Page 31 top of page)

Current wording:

The Council shall review the performance of the State Treasurer annually during its third meeting. The Council Chair will prepare a letter to the State Treasurer outlining the results of the review.

Proposed new wording:

The **Council of Governors** shall review the performance of the State Treasurer annually during its **fourth** meeting. The Council Chair will prepare a letter to the State Treasurer outlining the results of the review.

Rationale:

In the past the review has been held during the 4th meeting, in conjunction with the Executive Director evaluation/review.

DG Fisher questions Section IV, Treasurer Evaluation. He felt that the newly formed Ad Hoc committee should handle the treasurer review. DG Bouwman clarified we were not taking away anything from the Finance Review committee that the annual review is under the direction of the Governors. The committee could be asked their opinion of the Treasurer.

MOTION: Bouwman, Furman, to approve the MD 11 Policy Manual changes as presented. Opposed – Fisher. Motion carried.

Council Chair Interviews: Our By Laws are not in alignment with our Policy Manual. To correct this, an amendment change is necessary and a vote by the membership at the MD 11 Convention.

Current Language: “The Council Chairperson shall be selected at a meeting called following the Multiple District Annual Convention, but not later than thirty (30) days following the closing of the International Convention for the purpose of selecting a council chairperson, by and from the First Vice District Governors.”

Proposed New Language: “The Council Chairperson shall be selected **prior to the Third Council of Governors Meeting**, by and from the First Vice District Governors.”

If approved, this change would take effect beginning with the **upcoming Lions year 2026–2027** unless otherwise specified. This item will be voted on at the December CoG meeting.

Old Business: Fetzer Employee Grant

DG Bouwman provided information on her employer, the Fetzer Institute, located in Kalamazoo. The institute was started by Mr. John Fetzer, former owner of the Detroit Tigers. The 2-for-1 employee matching grant has been approved and a check in the amount of \$15,000.00 will be written on October 15. Lions raised \$7,500.00 of the match required to obtain the full amount of the grant. Money will be donated back to the 11 districts that donated to the \$7,500.00 to be used for Leadership opportunities.

DG Bouwman will try to arrange a tour for the council when in Kalamazoo for the Lions Michigan Forum.

DG Marie Leathers followed up on the Hunger Grant E2 has applied for. \$30,000.00 of the required match of \$50,000.00 has been raised to date. They are working hard to have the funding complete by the end of December.

Per the request of PID Anderson, a motion was required to approve additional funds for expense incurred hosting the Midwest Breakfast.

MOTION: Cozart, Fisher, Leathers, to approve \$750.00 in expense reimbursement from the International Convention fund for hosting the Midwest Breakfast held in Atlantic City at the USA/Canada Forum.

Tail Twister Cozart asked everyone to share why they became a Lion, then proceeded to collect final donations to the Tail Twister fund. Money collected over the weekend will be donated to Gaylord Public Schools.

Motion: Leathers, Hooper, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lion Wendy Burns, Executive Director